

Vol 1018

5-IN-1



STORIES FROM THE MAHABHARATA

• Indra and Shibi • Nala Damayanti • Kacha and Devayani • Indra and Shachi • Savitri





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The route to your roots

INDRA & SHIBI

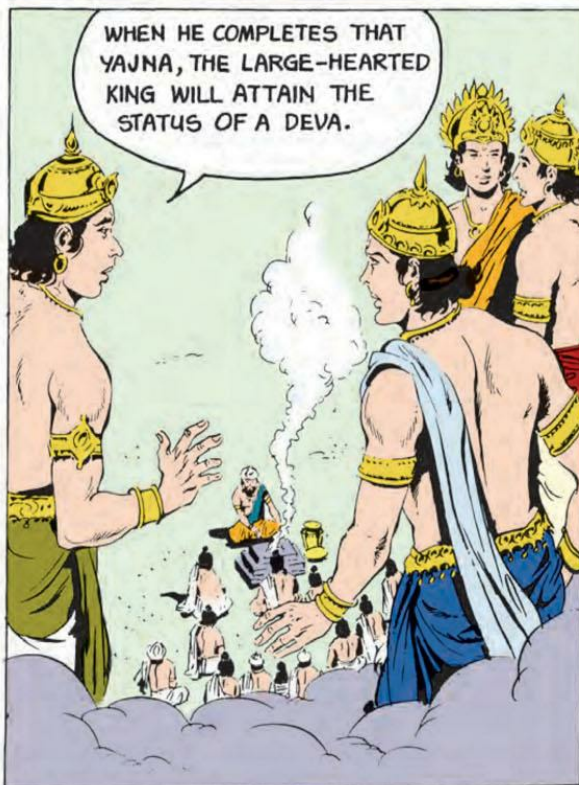
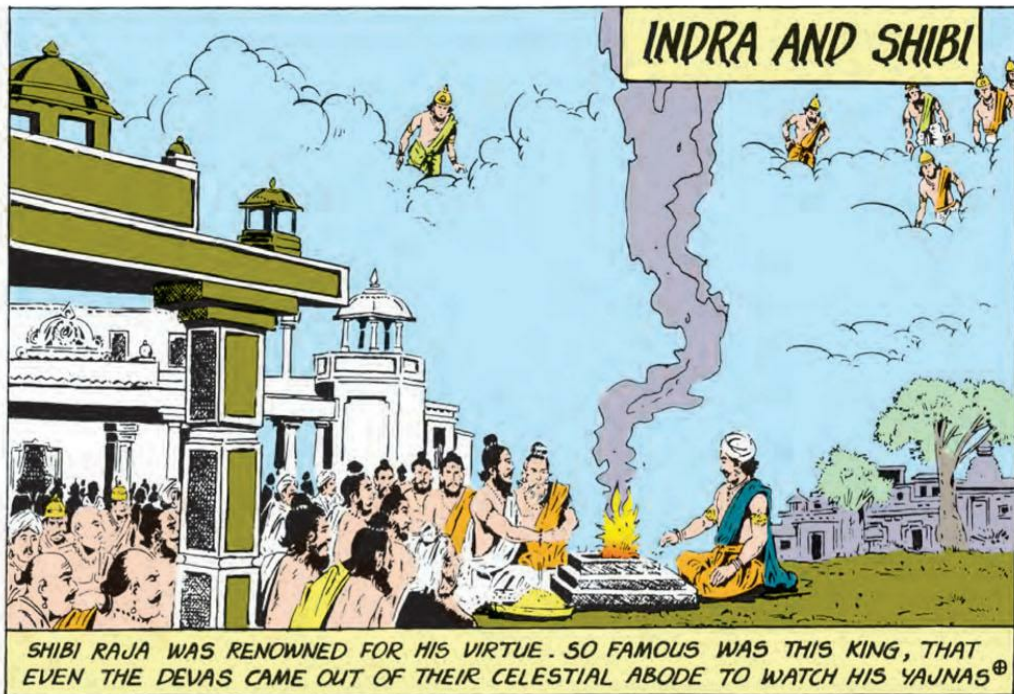
It is little wonder that Indra was the lord of all gods – he displayed the true characteristics of a perfect leader. It was his diligence and eye for detail that ensured that only the virtuous were given god-like status. Arrogance and impatience were soon corrected. But, most importantly, as a leader, Lord Indra strove to be worthy of his position.

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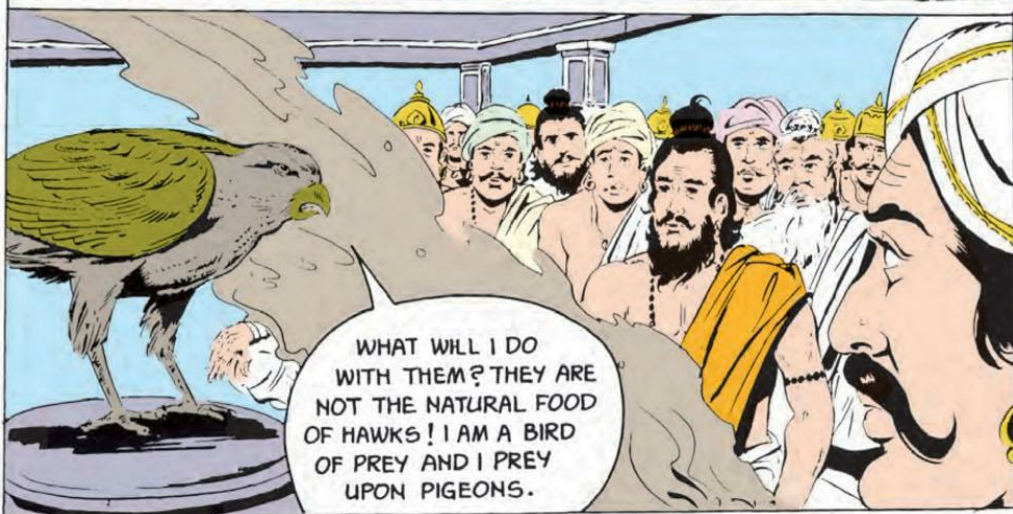
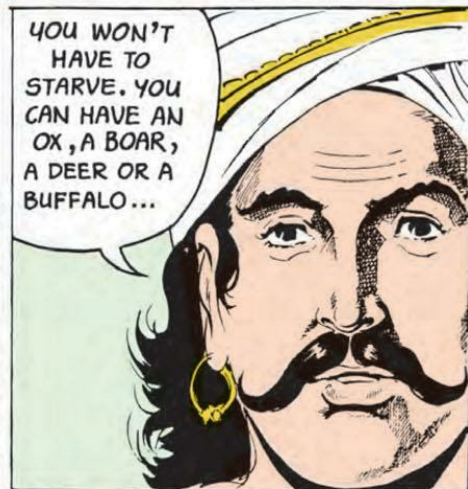
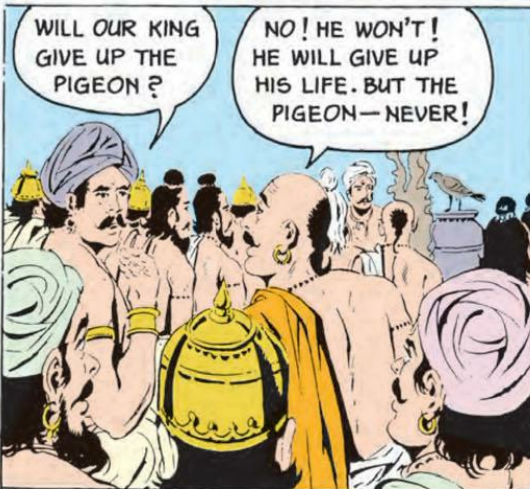
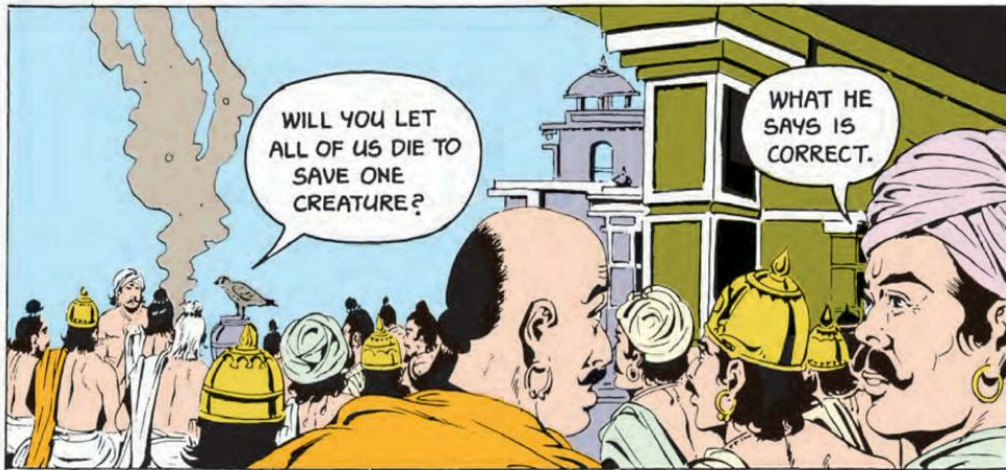
Editor
Anant Pai

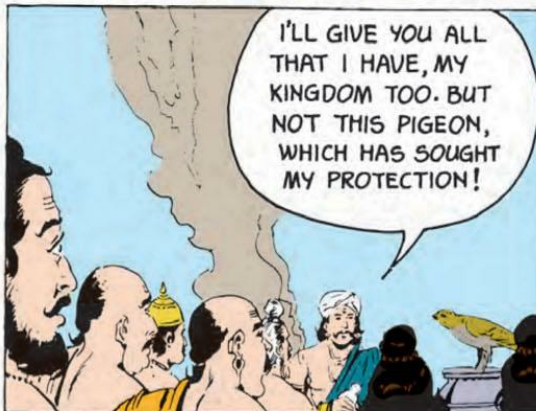
Cover illustration by: Pratap Mulick





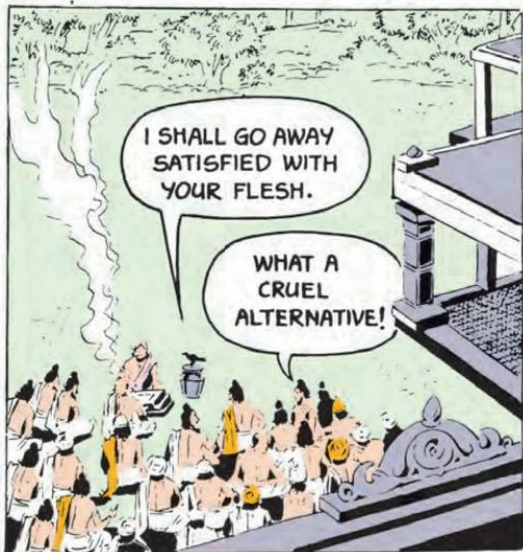
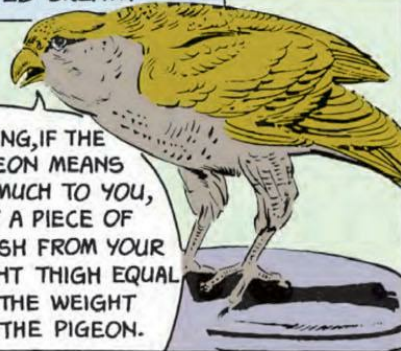






AS THE ASSEMBLY WATCHED WITH
BATED BREATH —

O KING, IF THE
PIGEON MEANS
SO MUCH TO YOU,
CUT A PIECE OF
FLESH FROM YOUR
RIGHT THIGH EQUAL
TO THE WEIGHT
OF THE PIGEON.

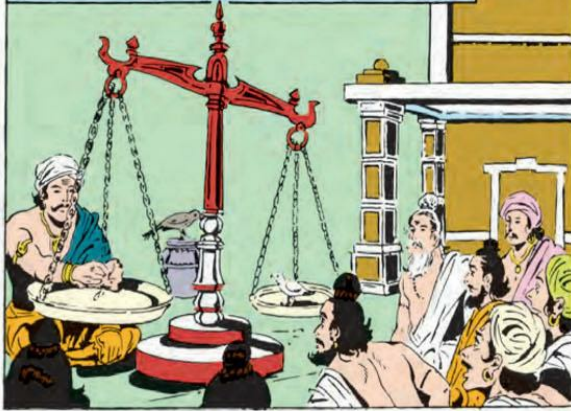


BUT SHIBI RAJA DID NOT THINK SO.

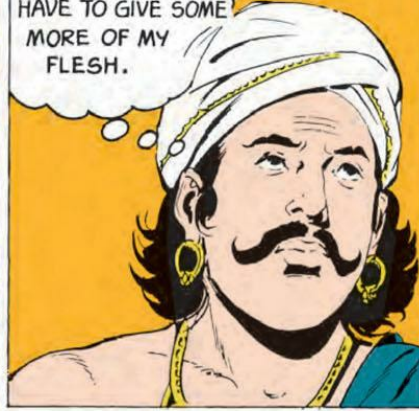
O GENEROUS
HAWK, YOU DO
ME A GREAT
FAVOUR.



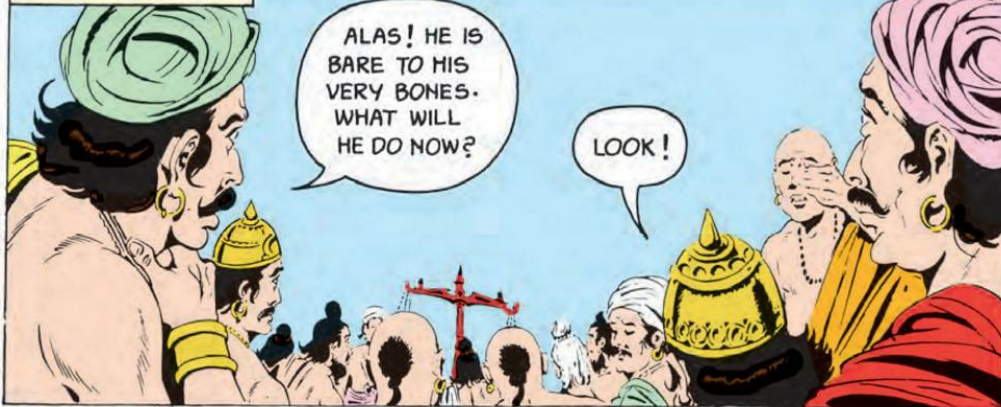
AND CUTTING OUT HIS FLESH, SHIBI RAJA
WEIGHED IT AGAINST THE PIGEON.



OH! THE PIGEON
IS HEAVY! I WILL
HAVE TO GIVE SOME
MORE OF MY
FLESH.

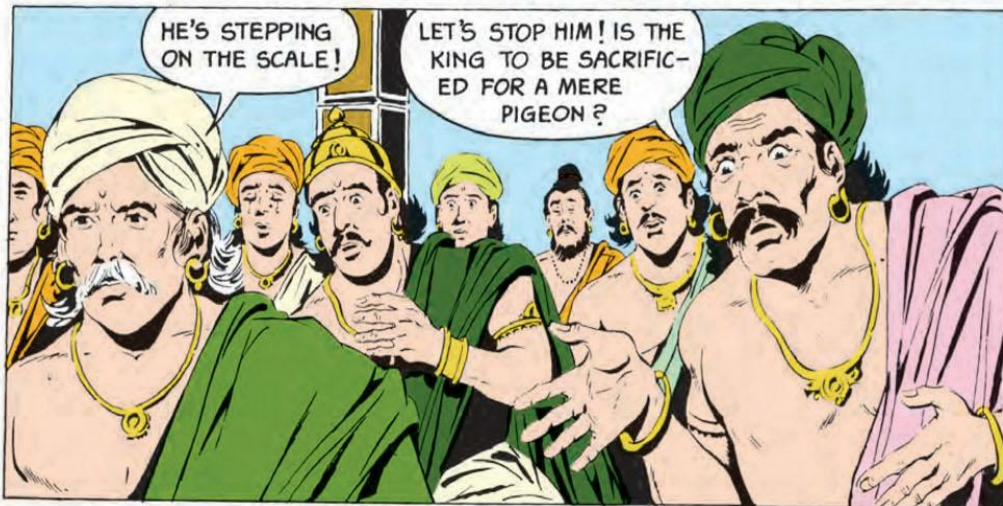


SHIBI GAVE UP PORTION AFTER PORTION OF HIS FLESH BUT THE PIGEON
WEIGHED MORE.



ALAS! HE IS
BARE TO HIS
VERY BONES.
WHAT WILL
HE DO NOW?

LOOK!



HE'S STEPPING
ON THE SCALE!

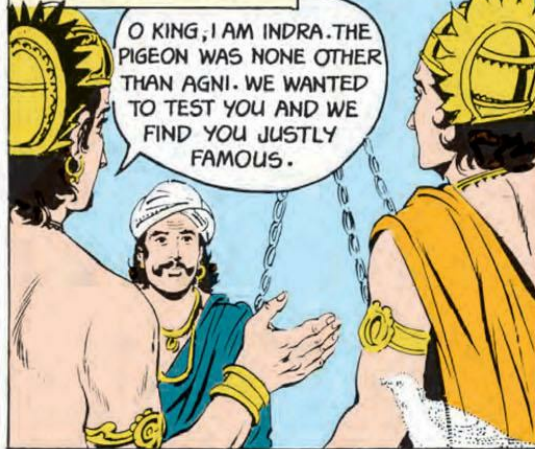
LET'S STOP HIM! IS THE
KING TO BE SACRIFIC-
ED FOR A MERE
PIGEON?



AND SHIBI BECAME WHOLE AGAIN.

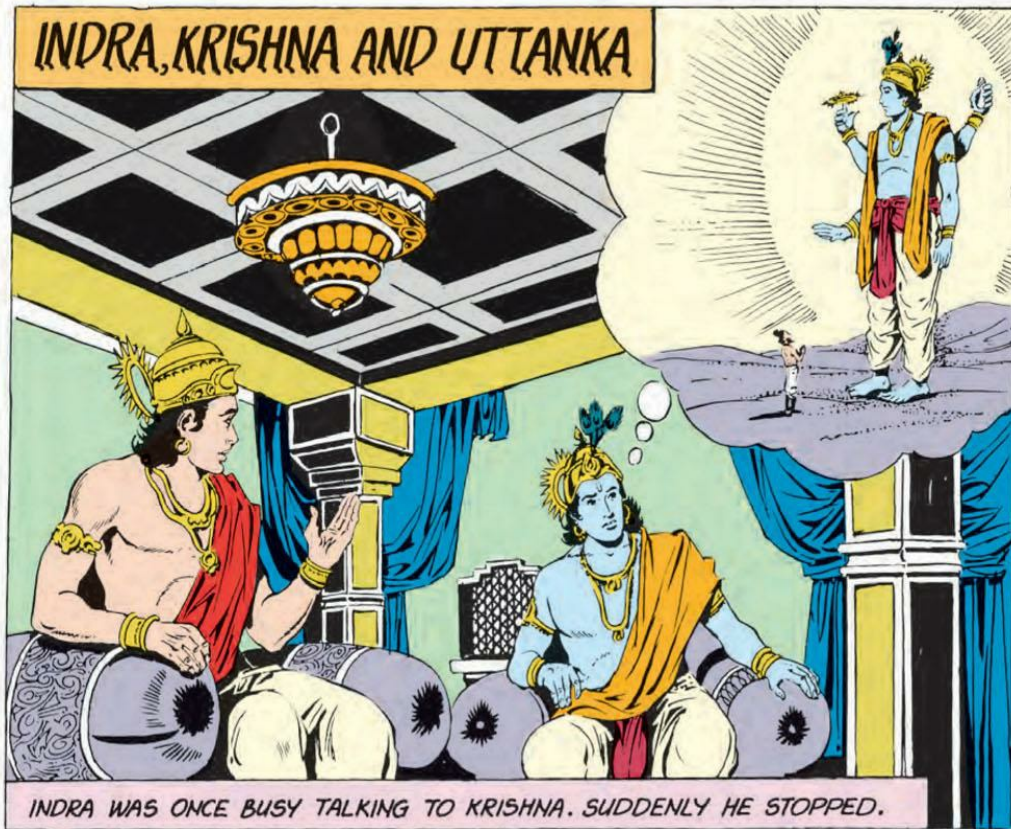


THE NEXT MOMENT —



YOUR NAME SHALL REMAIN IMMORTAL ON EARTH; AND A PLACE WILL BE KEPT FOR YOU IN HEAVEN.

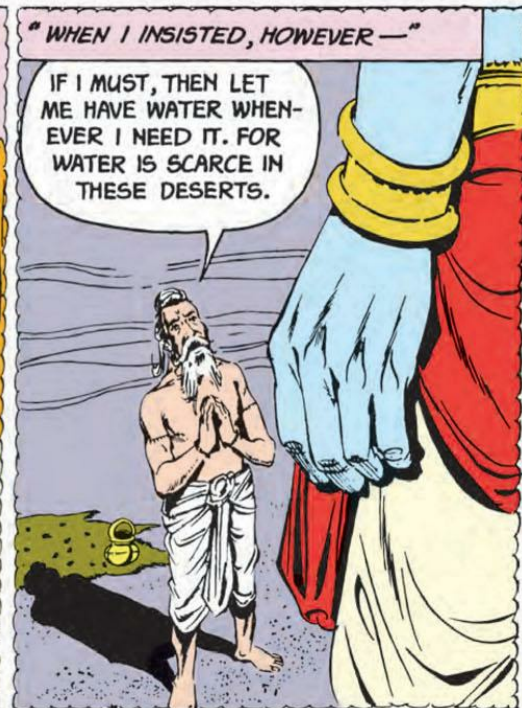




* COSMIC FORM OF KRISHNA IN WHICH ALL

8 XISTS IS SEEN WITHIN HIM

8





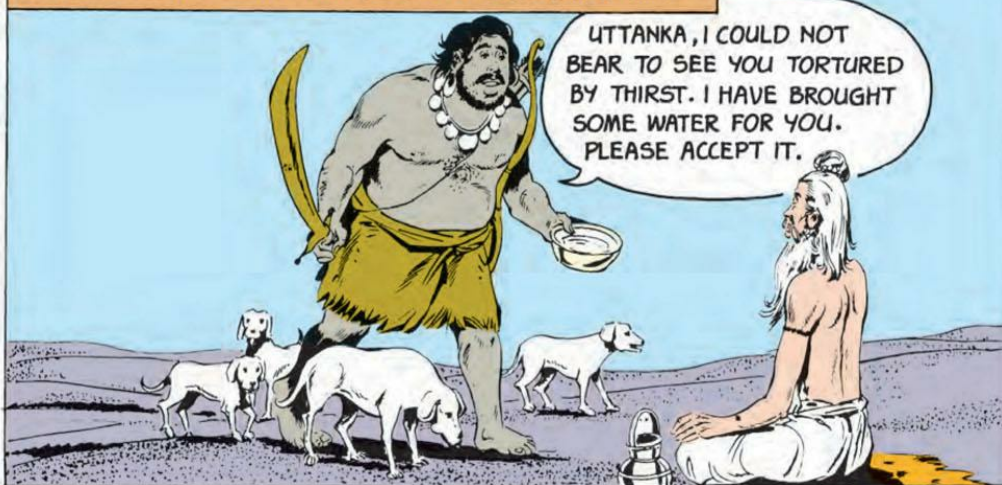
MEANWHILE, UTTANKA WAS STILL THINKING ABOUT KRISHNA.



SUDDENLY —



TO HIS DISMAY HE SAW A CHANDALA* APPROACHING HIM.

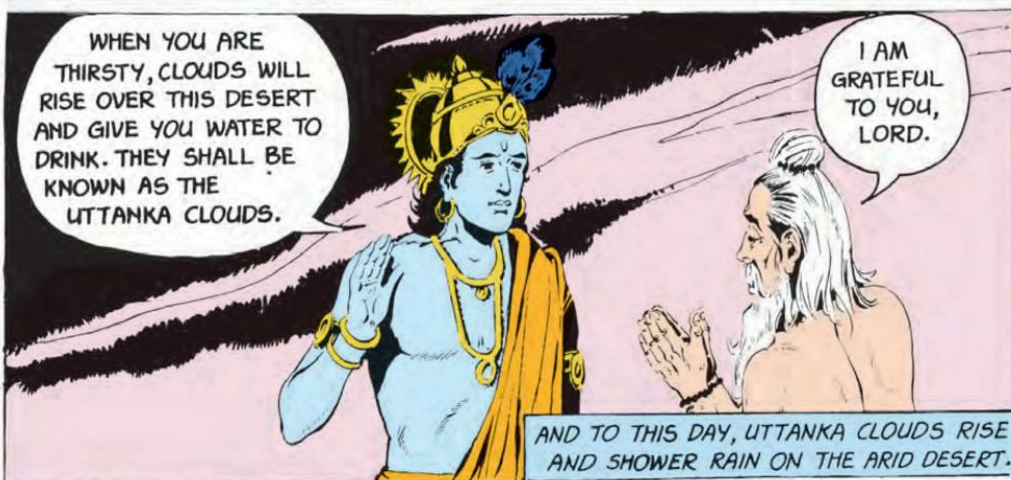


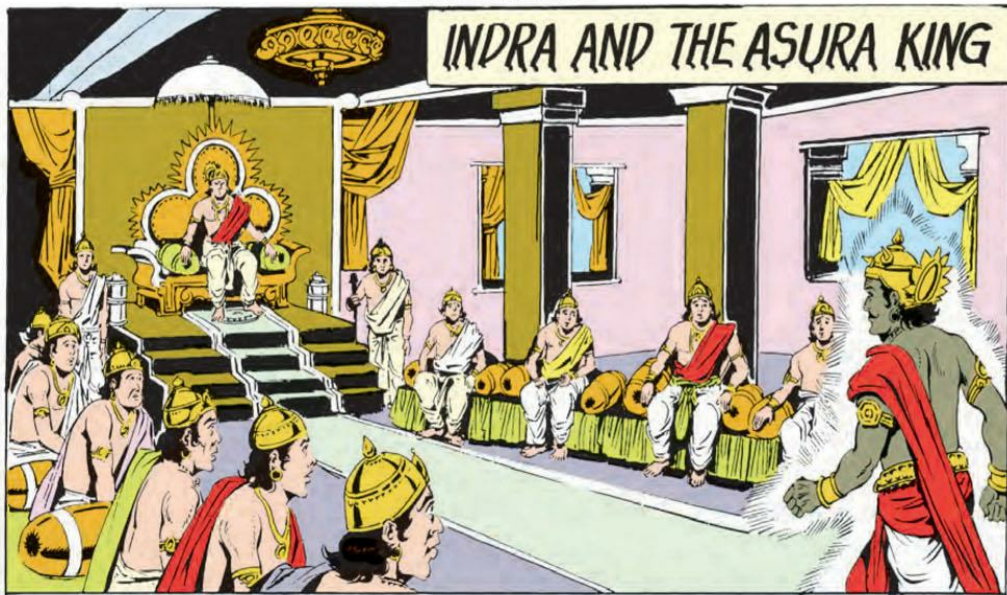
UTTANKA WAS AGHAST. HE SHRANK AWAY FROM THE CHANDALA.



* AN OUTCASTE

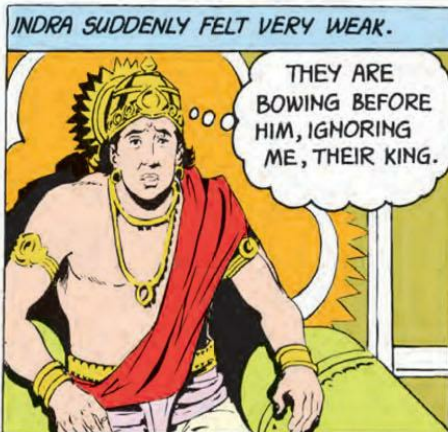




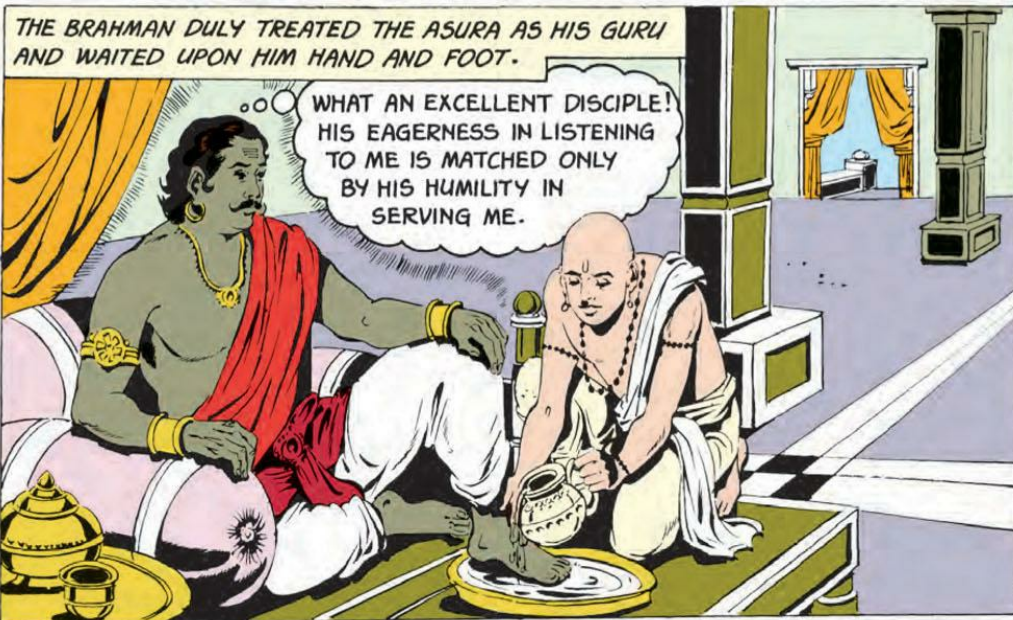


IN THE DAYS OF YORE, THE DEVAS AND ASURAS WERE EVER AT WAR, FIGHTING FOR SUPREMACY OVER HEAVEN, EARTH AND THE NETHER REGIONS. ONE DAY, A VIRTUOUS ASURA KING CAME TO AMARAVATI, THE CAPITAL OF INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS.

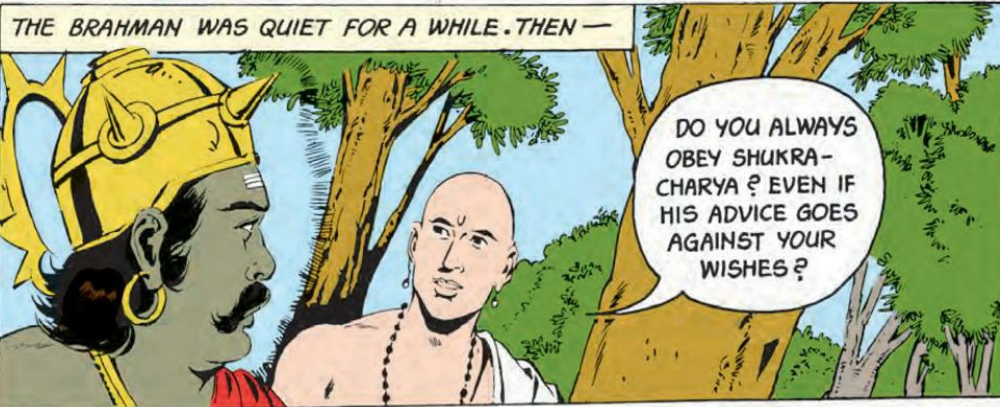


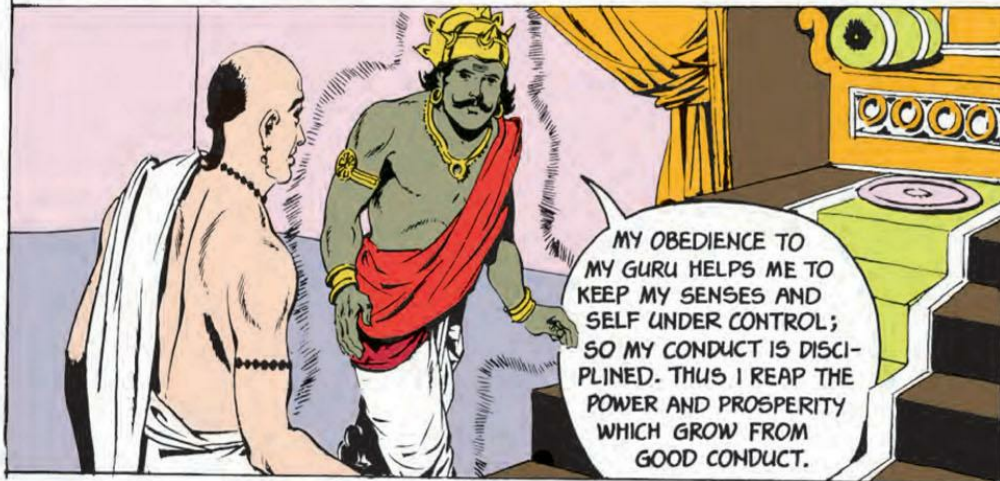
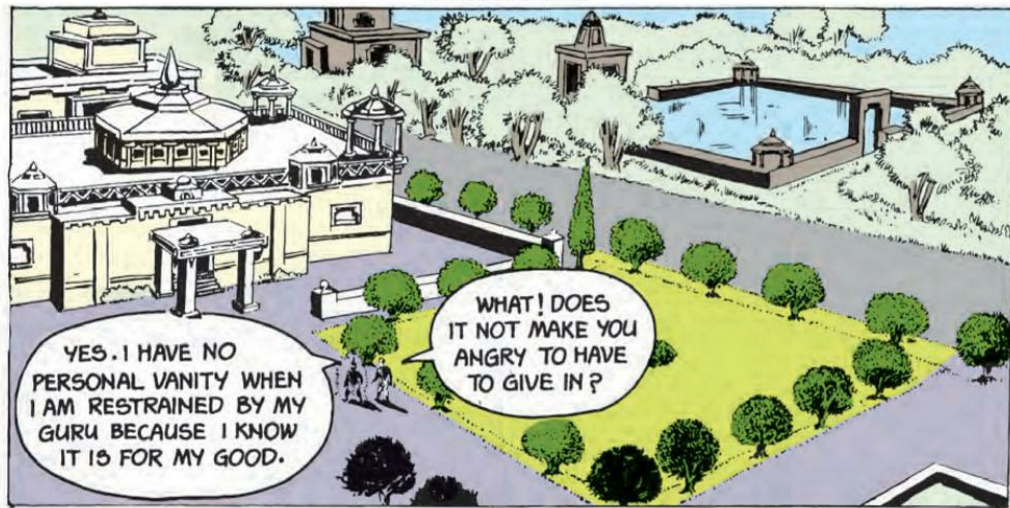


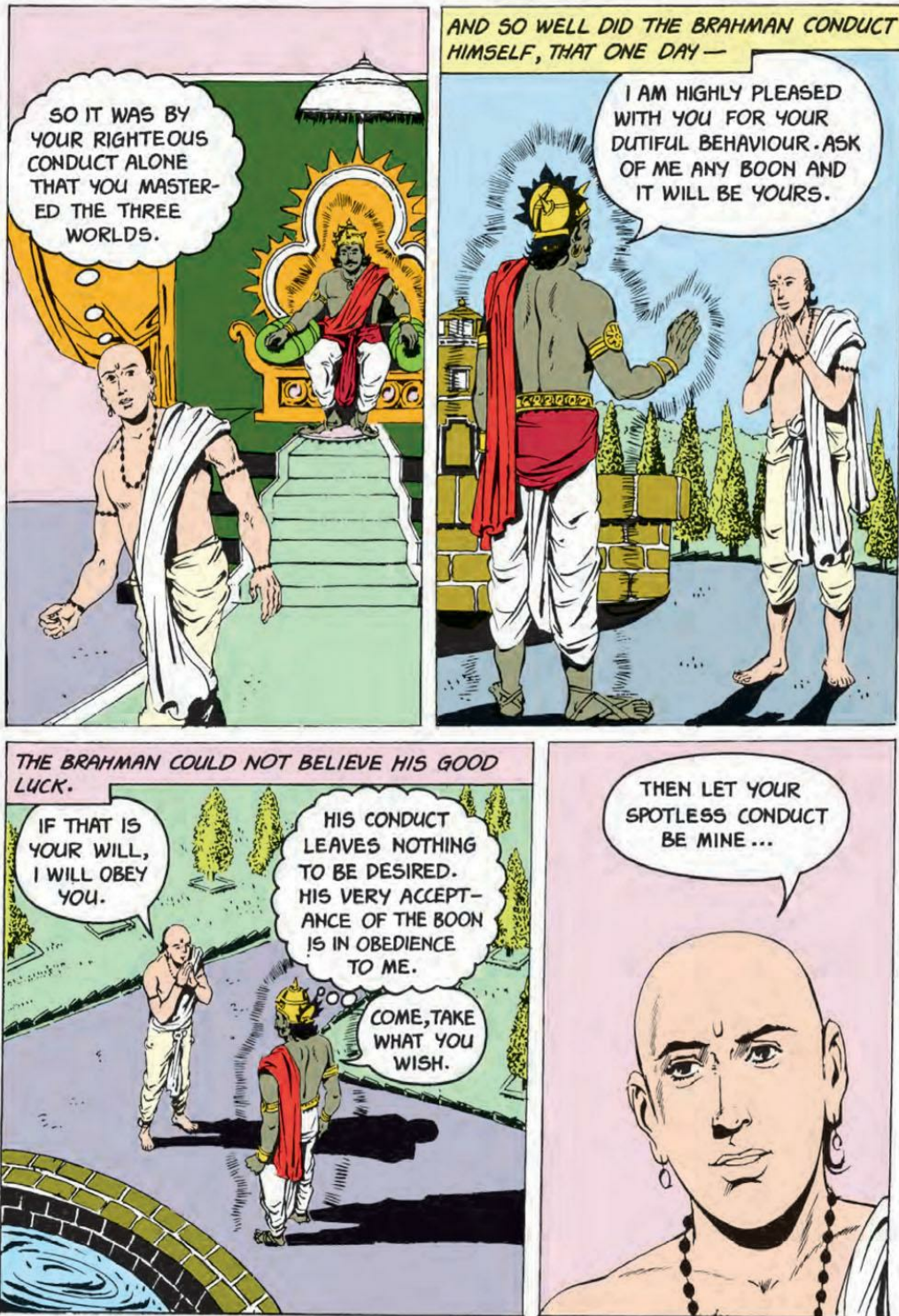


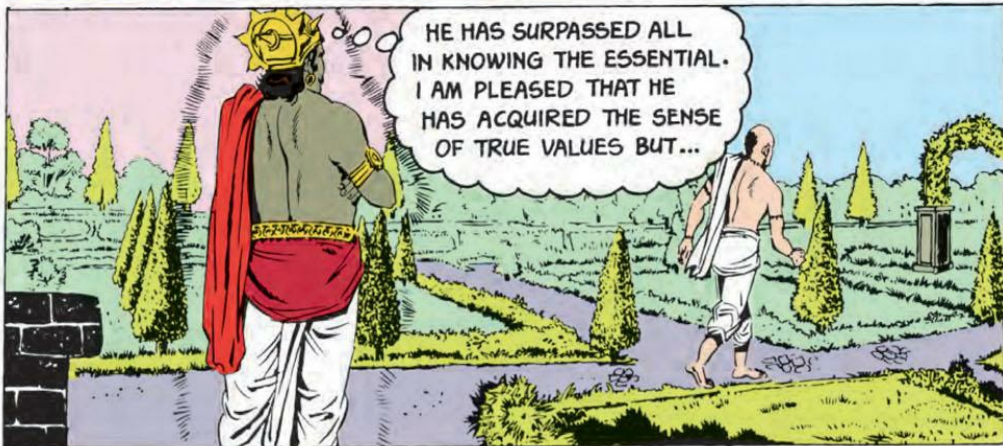
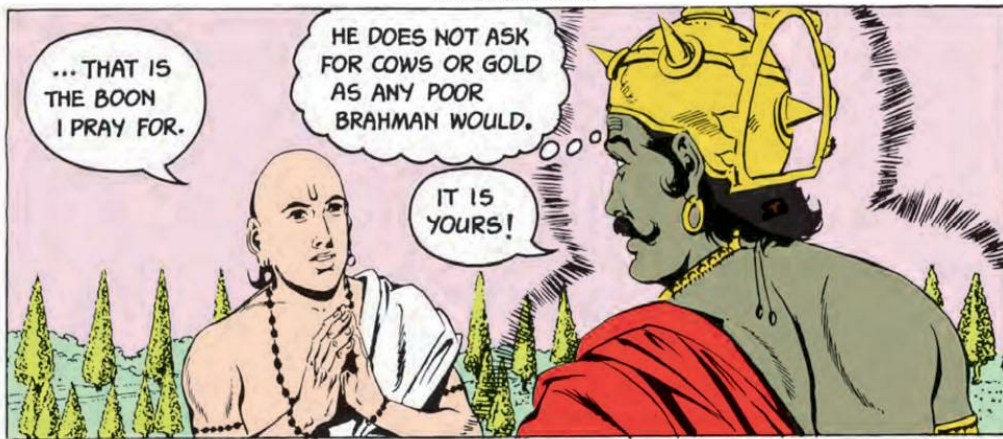


IN THE COURSE OF HIS LEARNING, THERE WAS ONE QUESTION WHICH THE BRAHMAN PERSISTED IN ASKING.









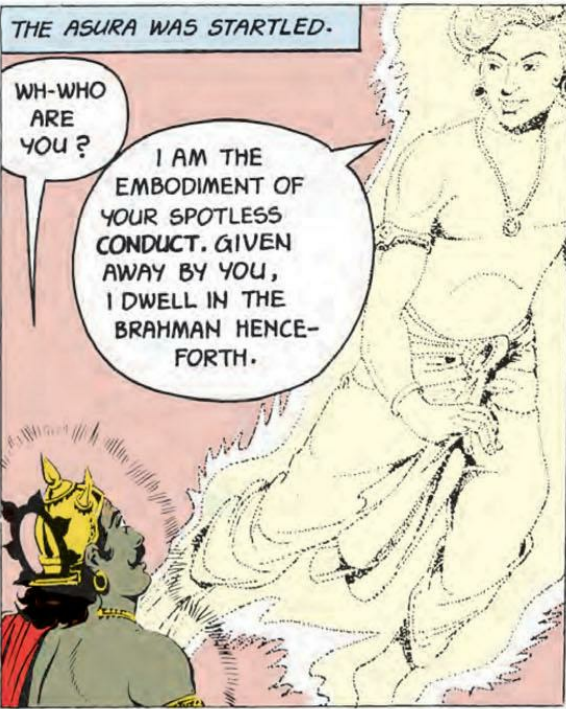
THE ASURA SAT BROODING.
SUDDENLY —



THE ASURA WAS STARTLED.

WH-WHO
ARE
YOU ?

I AM THE
EMBODIMENT OF
YOUR SPOTLESS
CONDUCT. GIVEN
AWAY BY YOU,
I DWELL IN THE
BRAHMAN HENCE-
FORTH.



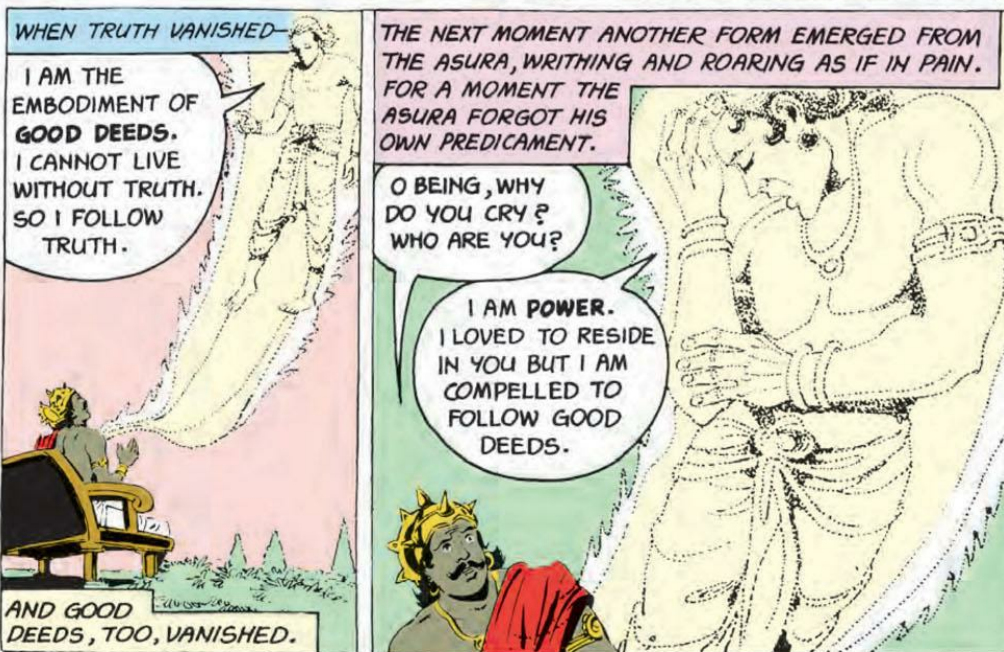
AND THE FORM VANISHED.

WHAT HAVE
I DONE!

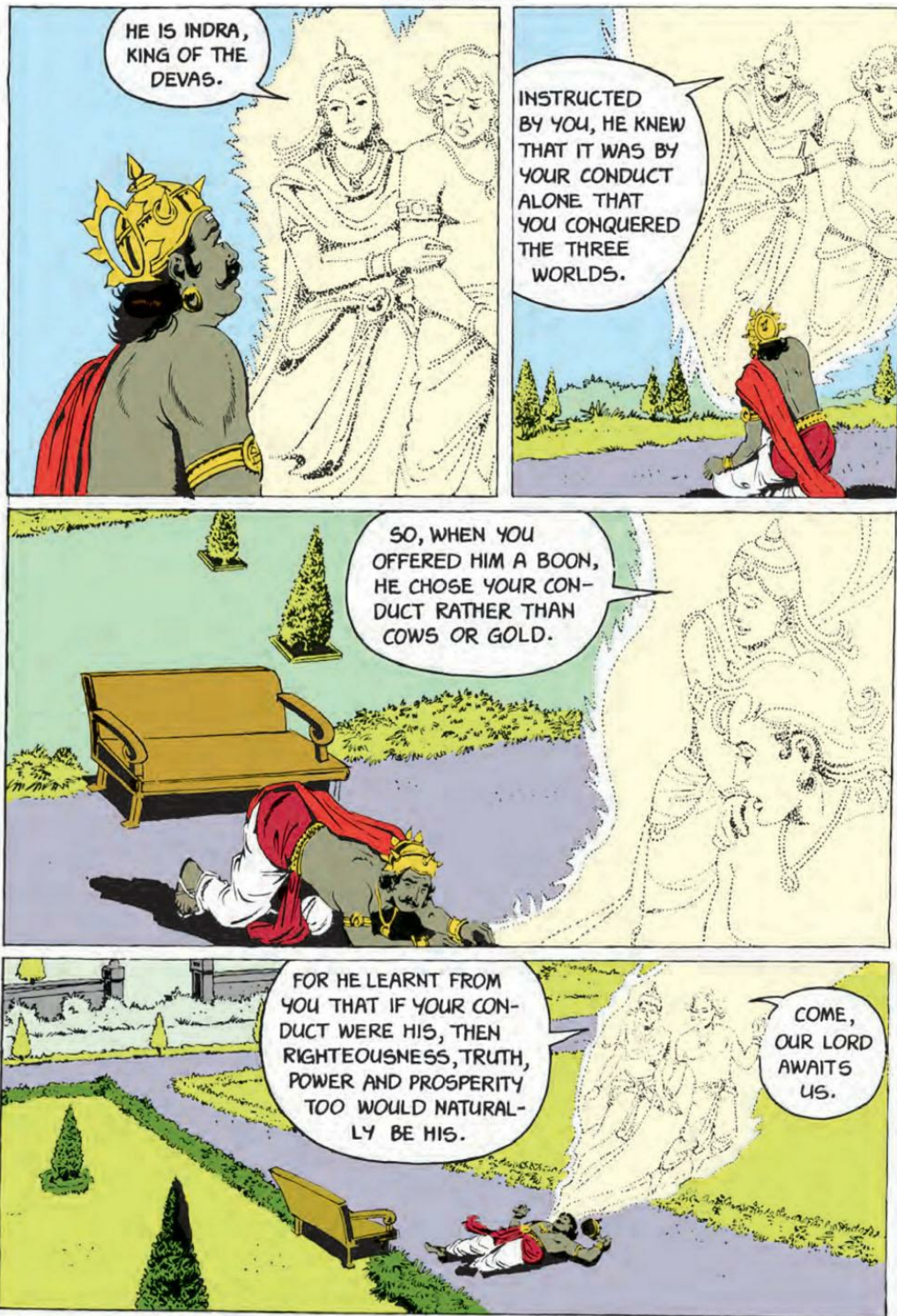


I, TOO,
SHALL
GO TO
THAT
BRAHMAN.

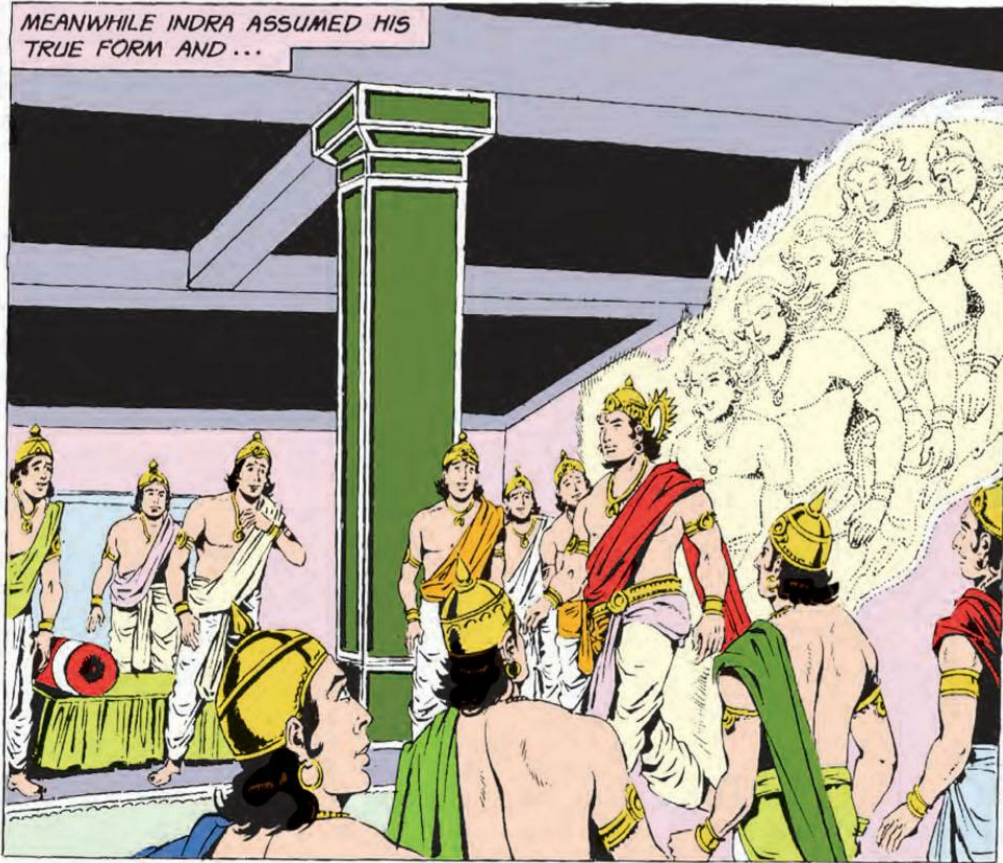




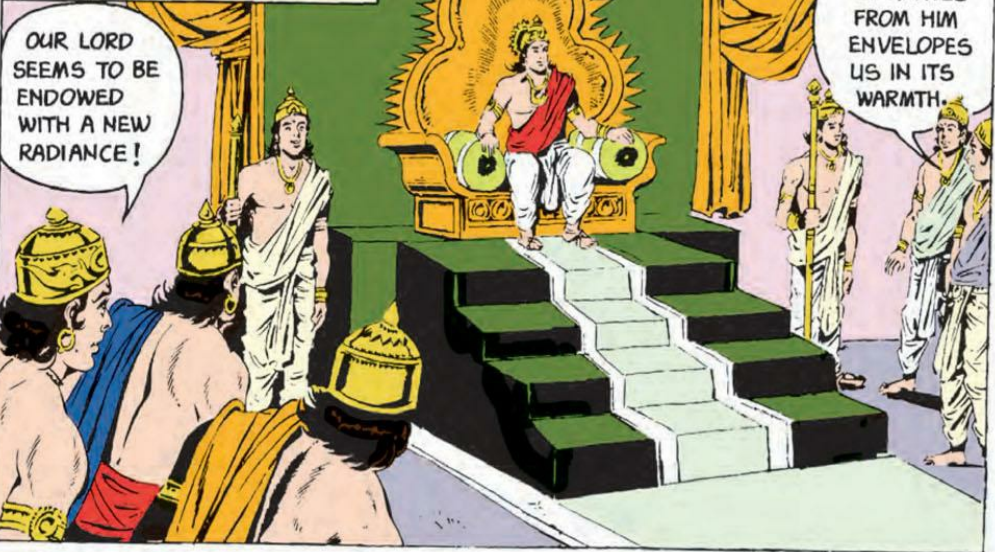




MEANWHILE INDRA ASSUMED HIS
TRUE FORM AND ...

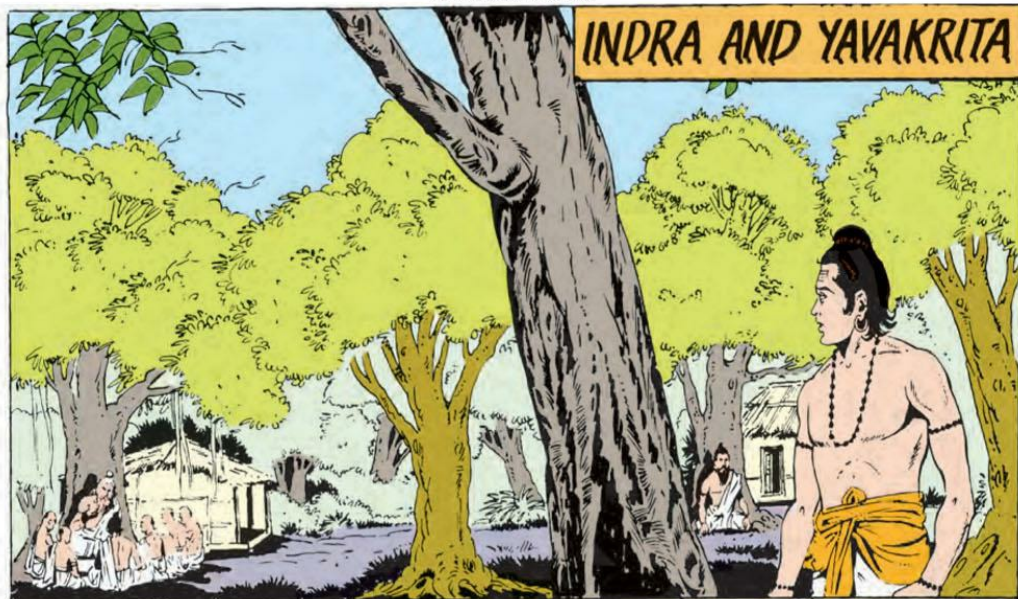


... ONCE AGAIN GAINED SOVEREIGNTY
OVER THE THREE WORLDS.



OUR LORD
SEEMS TO BE
ENDOWED
WITH A NEW
RADIANCE!

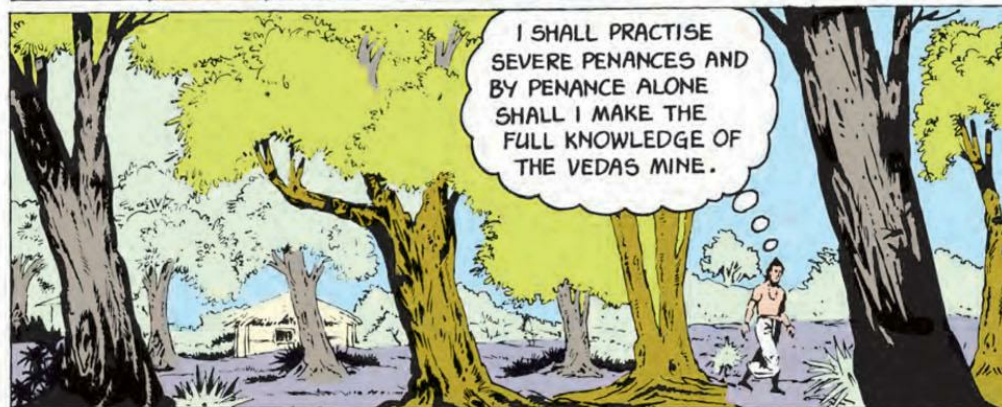
THE GLOW THAT
EMANATES
FROM HIM
ENVELOPES
US IN ITS
WARMTH.

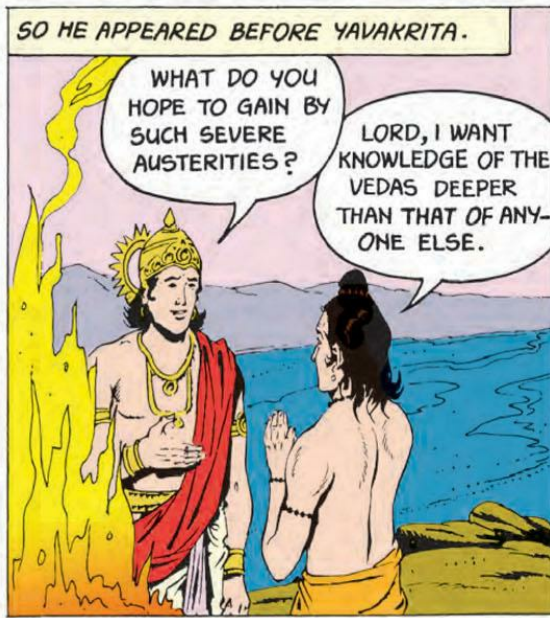
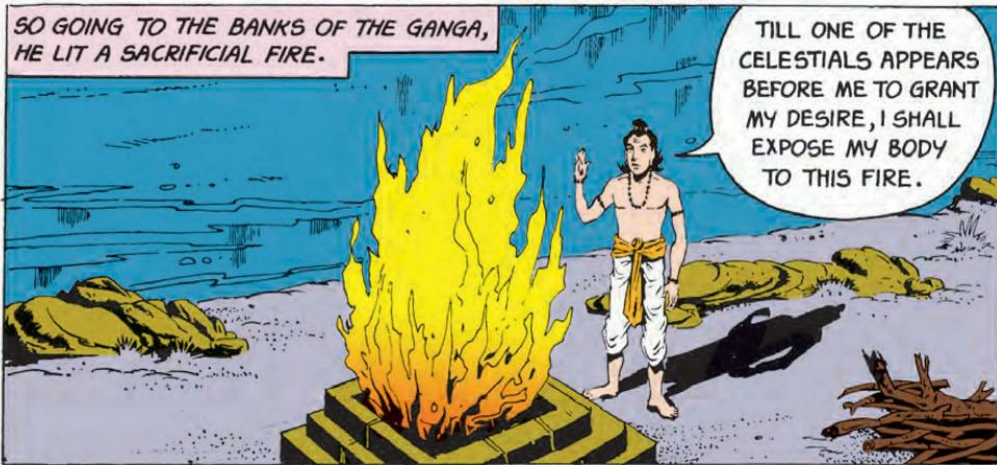
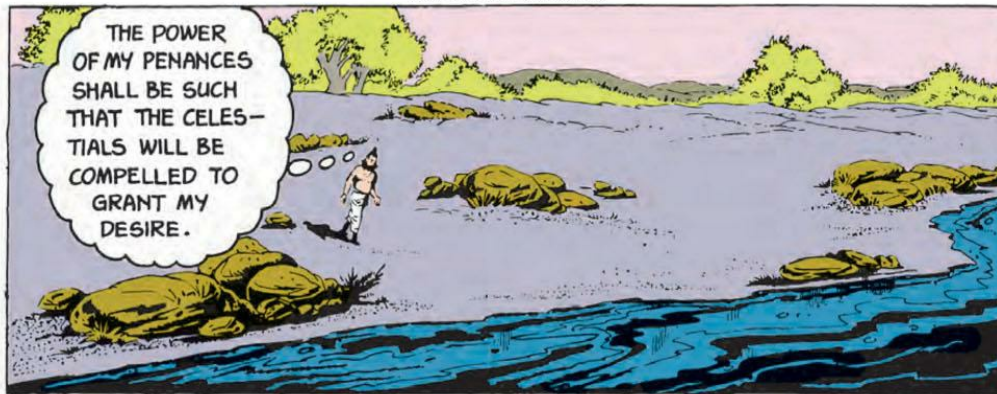


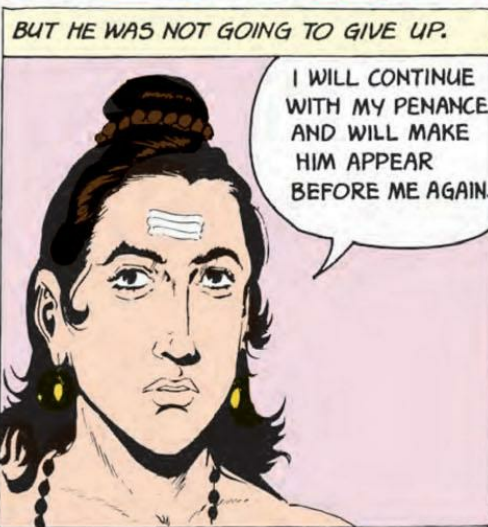
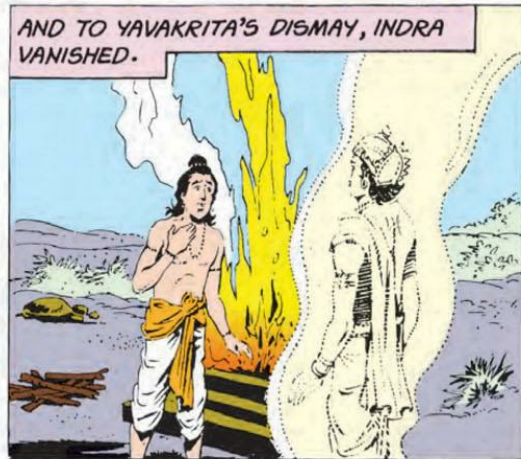
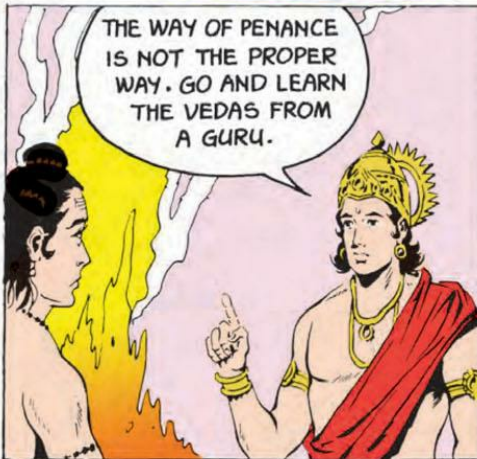
INDRA AND YAVAKRITA

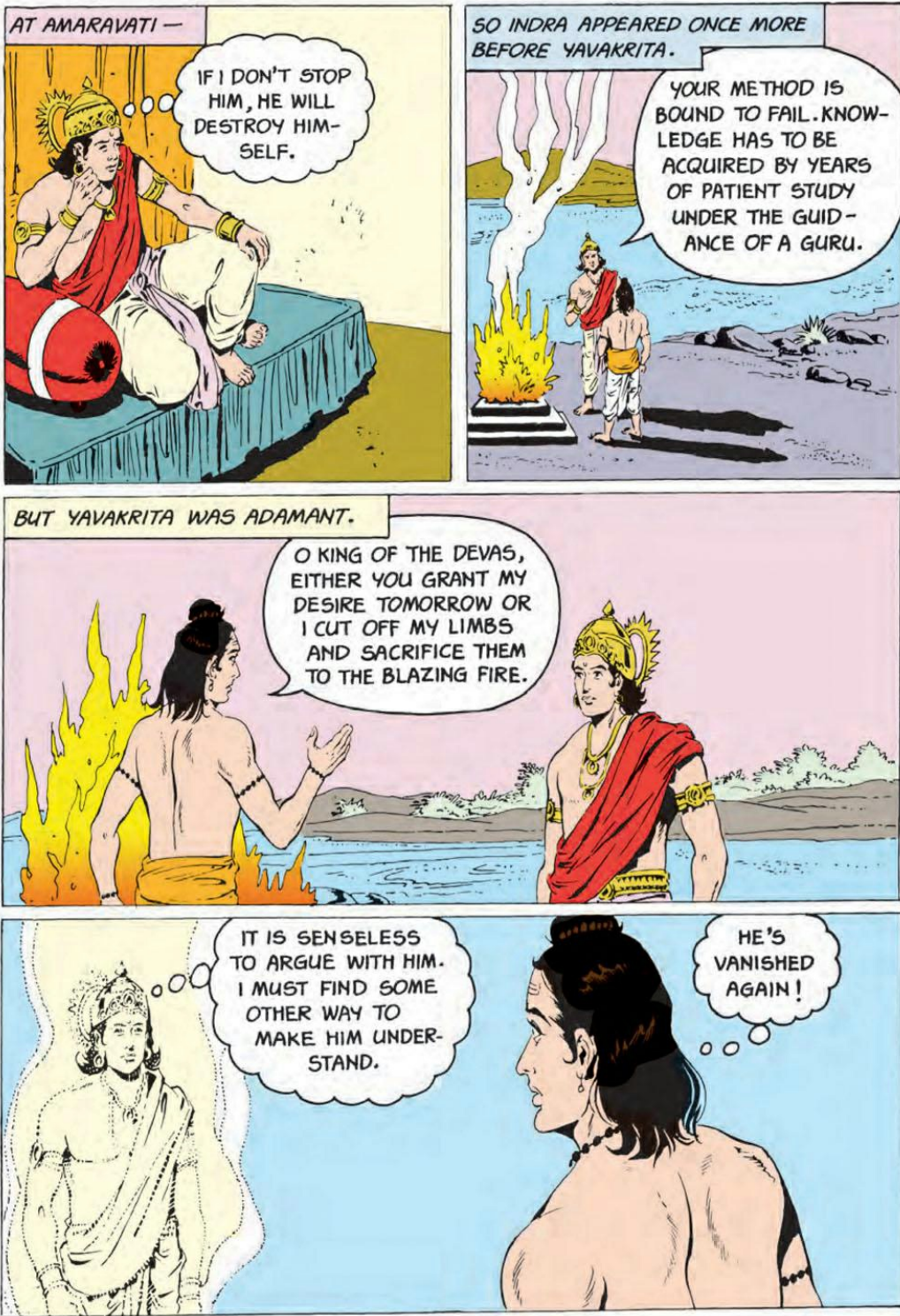
IN THE DAYS OF YORE, THERE LIVED TWO SAGES WHO WERE CLOSE FRIENDS. ONE OF THEM WAS A RENOWNED VEDIC SCHOLAR AND THE OTHER, AN ASCETIC.

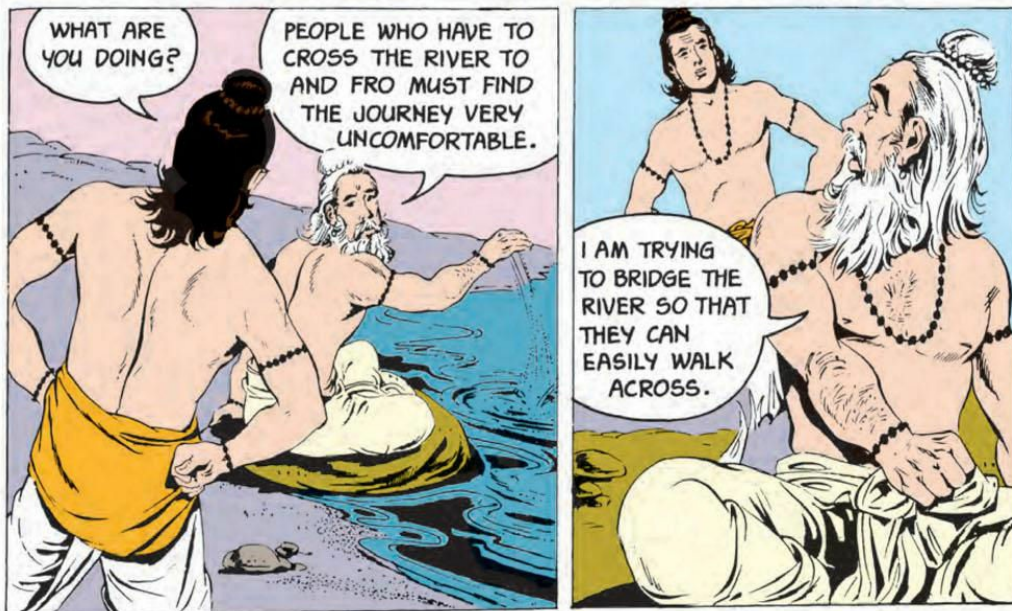
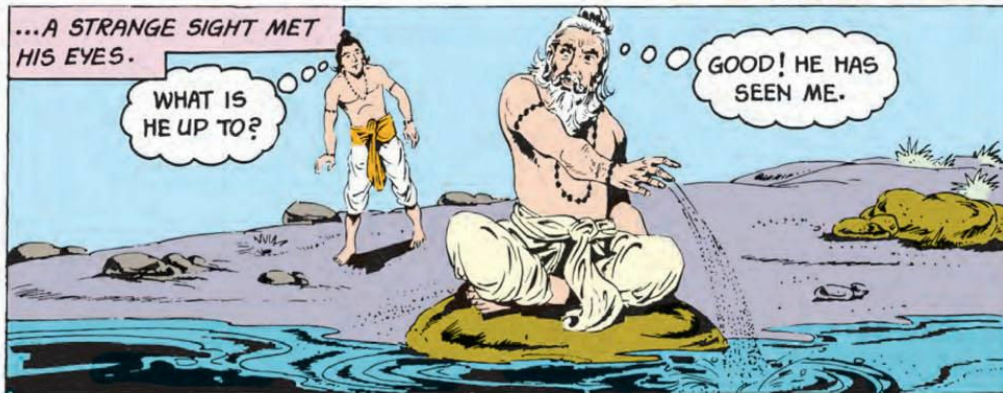
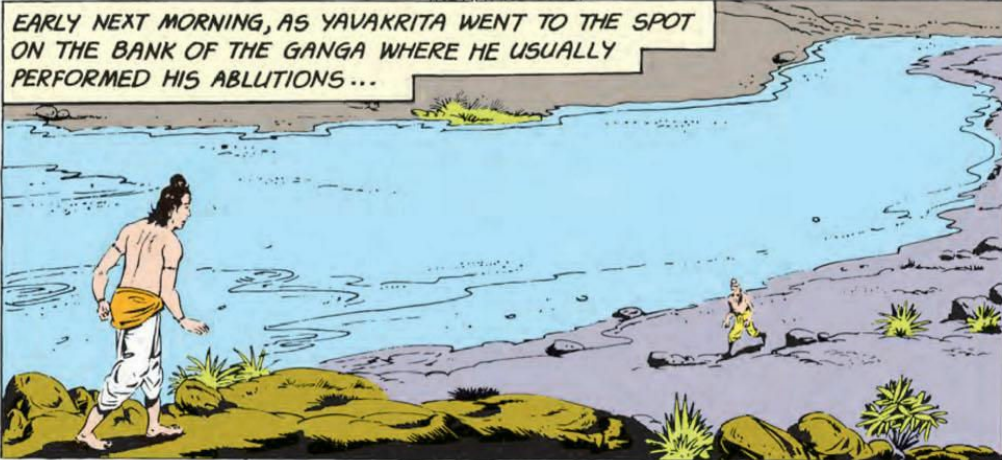
WHILE THE SAGES LOVED AND RESPECTED ONE ANOTHER, YAVAKRITA, THE SON OF THE ASCETIC, WAS AN UNHAPPY SOUL.







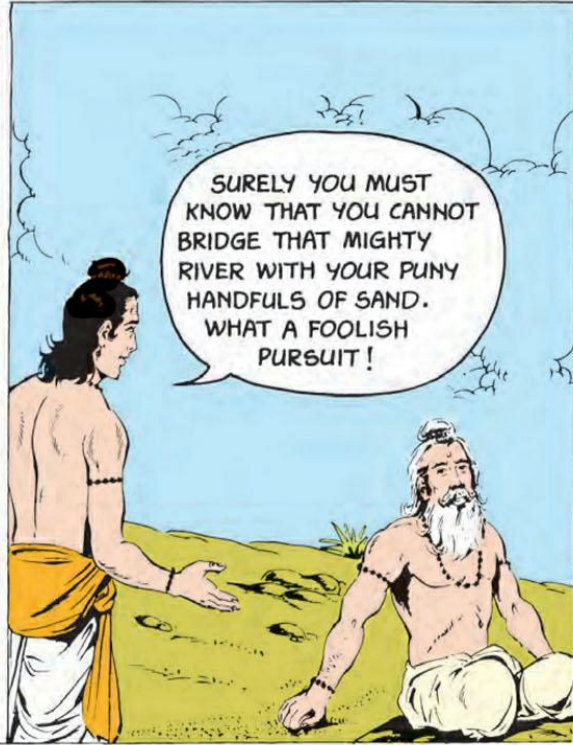




YAVAKRITA BURST OUT LAUGHING.



SURELY YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOU CANNOT BRIDGE THAT MIGHTY RIVER WITH YOUR PUNY HANDFULS OF SAND. WHAT A FOOLISH PURSUIT !



IT'S NO LESS FOOLISH, MY GOOD MAN, THAN YOUR ATTEMPT TO ACQUIRE BY A FEW DAYS OR MONTHS OF PENANCES THAT WHICH TAKES YEARS OF PATIENT STUDY UNDER AN ABLE GURU !



SUDDENLY REALISING THAT IT WAS INDRA, YAVAKRITA FELL AT HIS FEET.

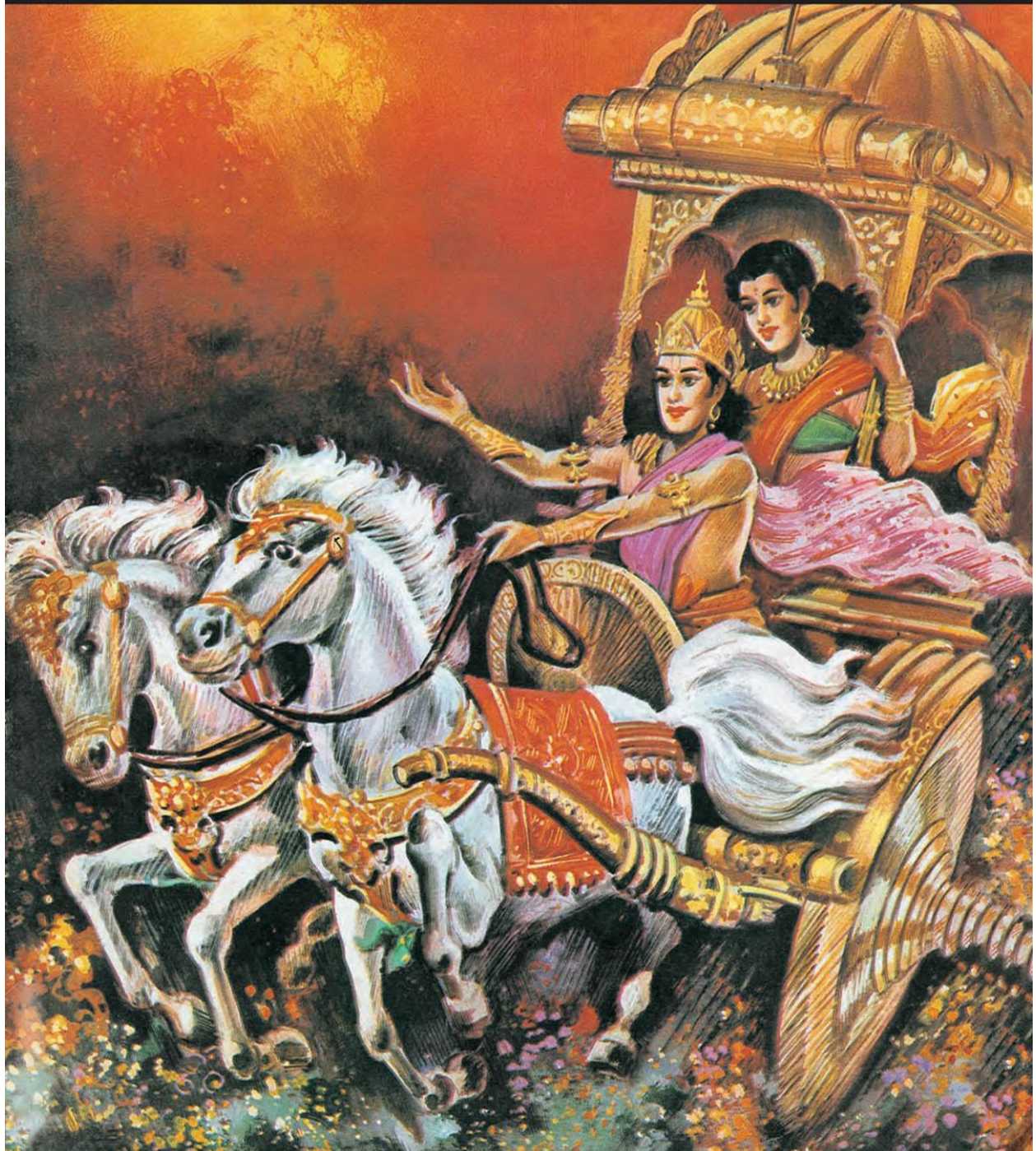
I HAVE UNDERSTOOD, MY LORD.





NALA DAMAYANTI

THE STEADFAST LOVERS





The route to your roots

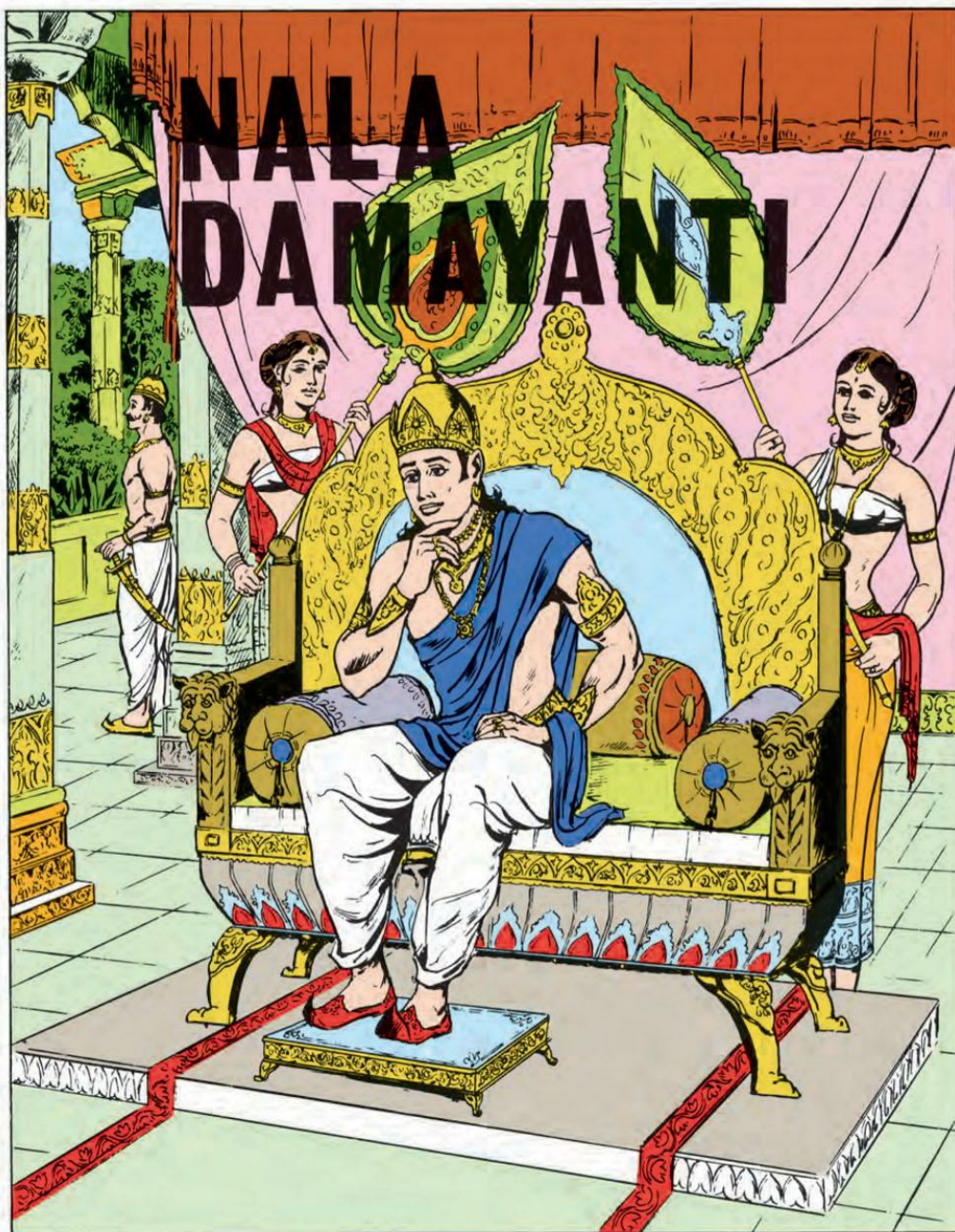
NALA DAMAYANTI

King Nala's life is idyllic – until a cunning cousin tricks him out of his kingdom. Can the love of his beautiful Damayanti survive such a calamity? Will they be able to win back happiness? Full of twists and turns, the story of this ideal couple is told in the Mahabharata.

Script
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Illustrations
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Editor
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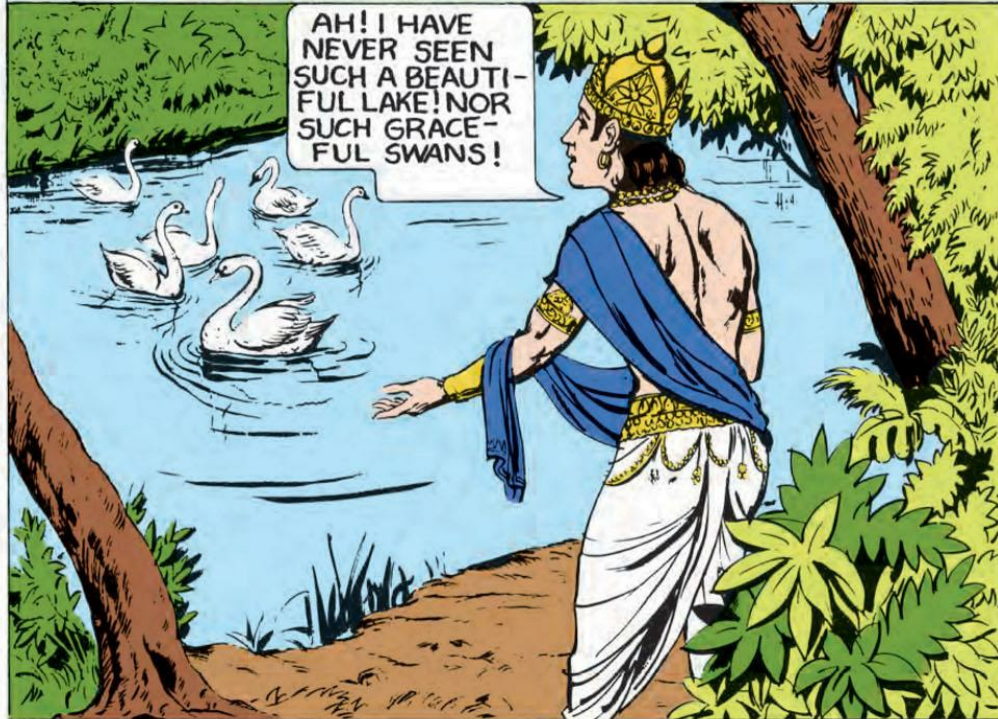


THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, NALA RULED OVER THE KINGDOM OF NISHADA. HE WAS GENEROUS AND NOBLE AND WAS LOVED BY HIS SUBJECTS. BUT HE WAS ALWAYS SAD. HIS FATHER HAD GONE TO A FOREST TO SPEND THE LAST YEARS OF HIS LIFE.

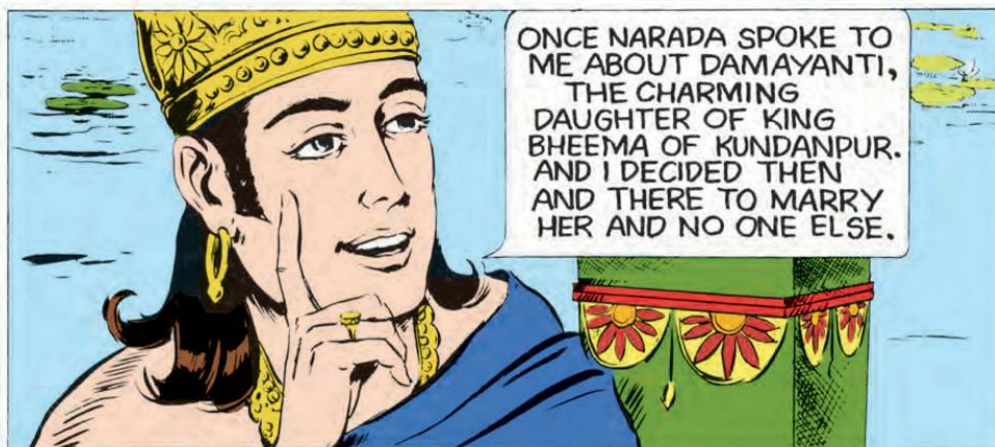
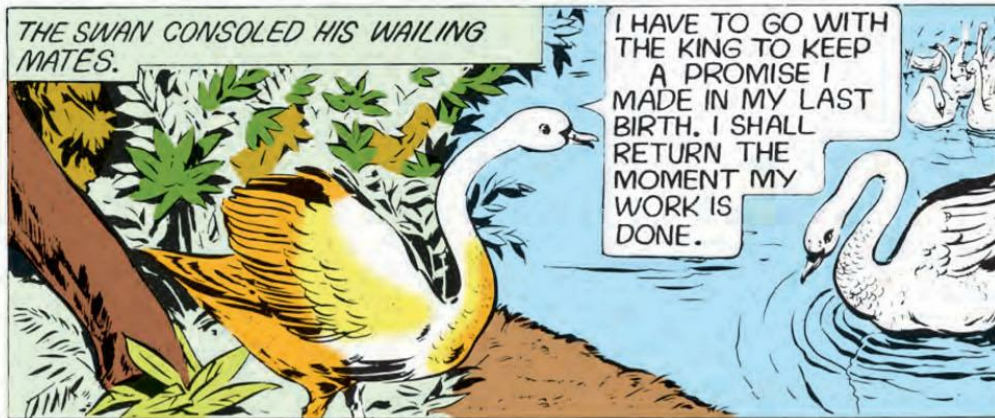
NALA'S COUSIN, PUSHKARA, ENVIED HIM HIS FAME.

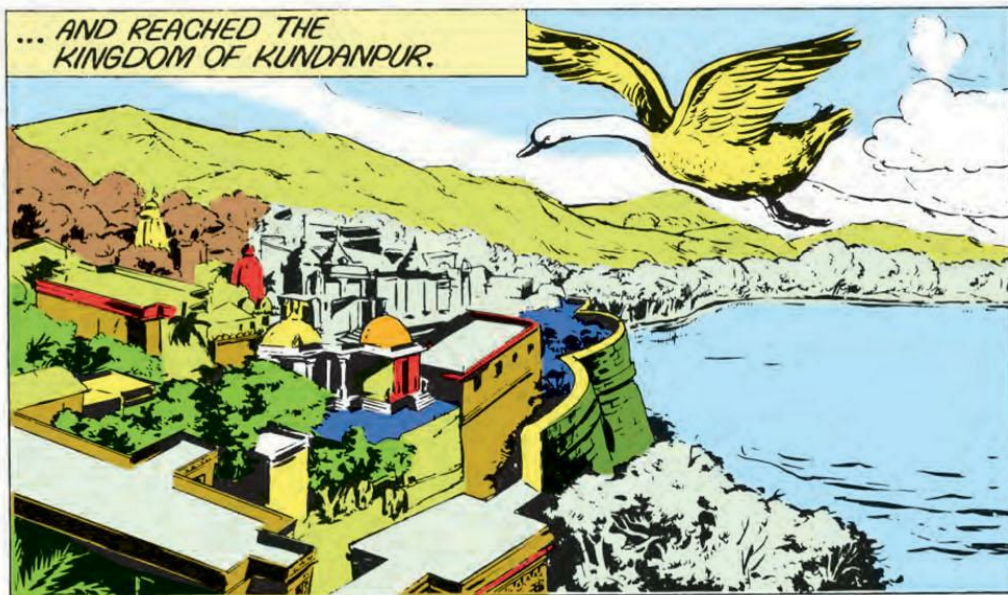


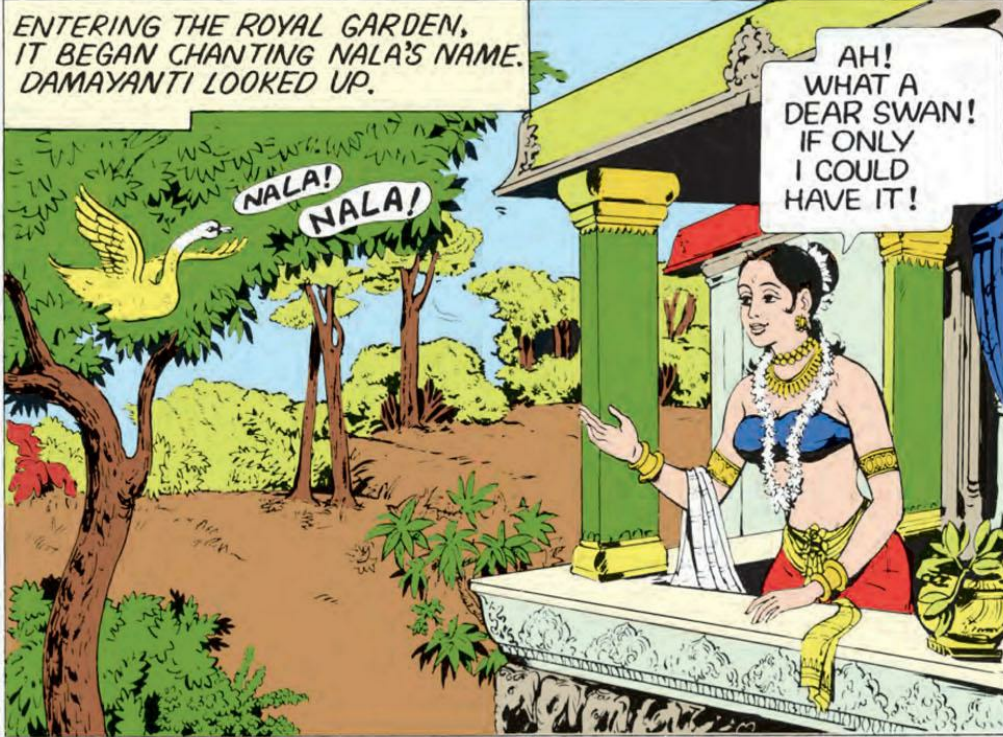
NALA WAS LONELY AND WANDERED FROM PLACE TO PLACE. ONE DAY –

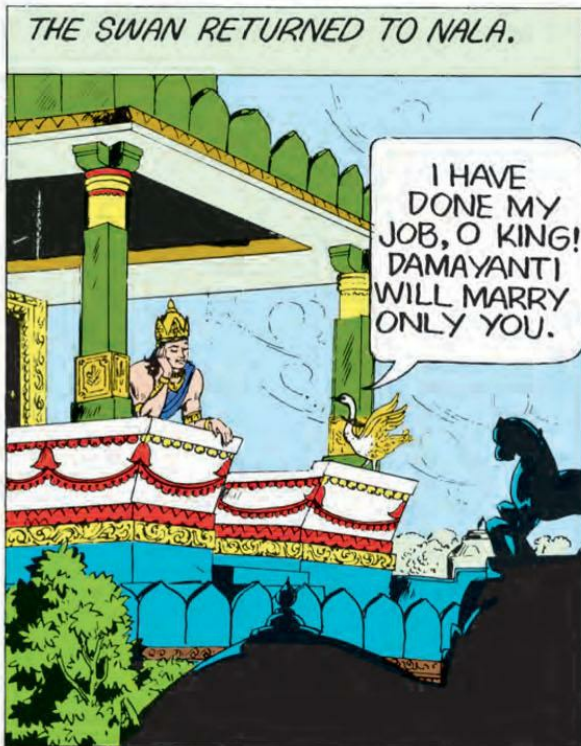




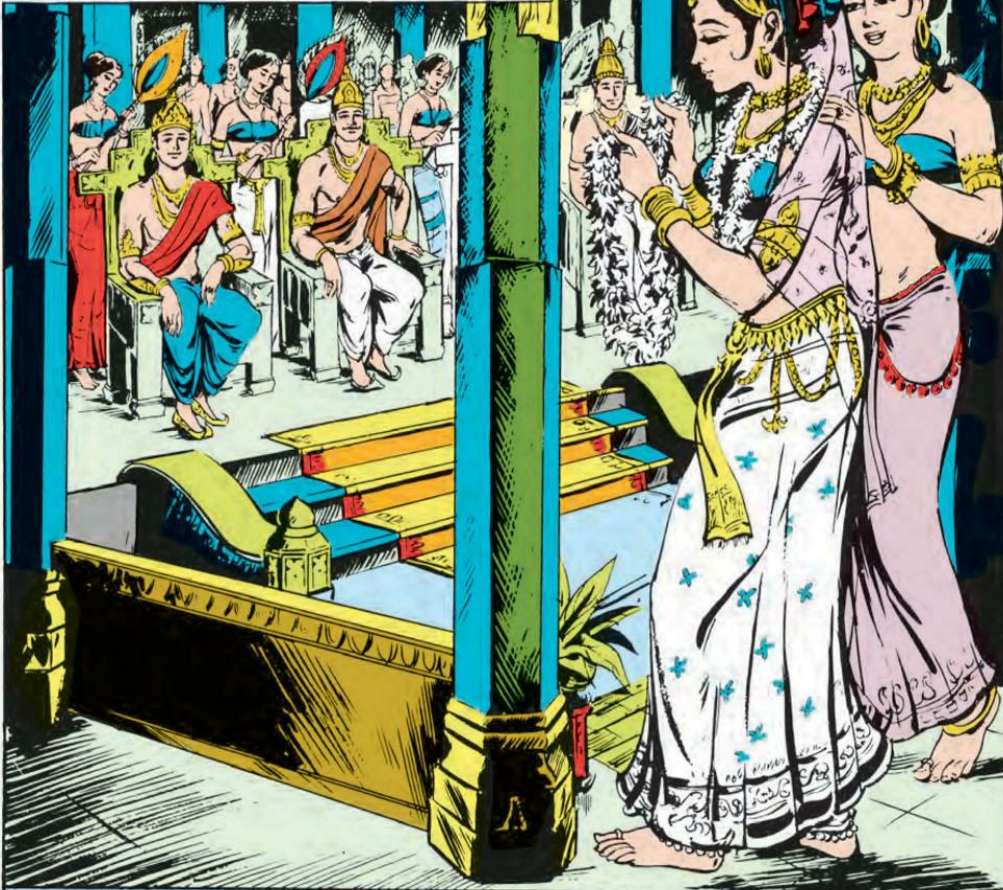








NALA WAS SOON INVITED TO
DAMAYANTI'S SWAYAMVARA.



PRINCES FROM FAR AND NEAR HAD GATHERED IN THE SWAYAM-
VARA HALL. DAMAYANTI ENTERED WITH THE GARLAND.
THE PRINCES WERE RESTLESS. LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THAT
DAMAYANTI'S GARLAND WAS MEANT ONLY FOR NALA.

DAMAYANTI GARLANDED NALA.

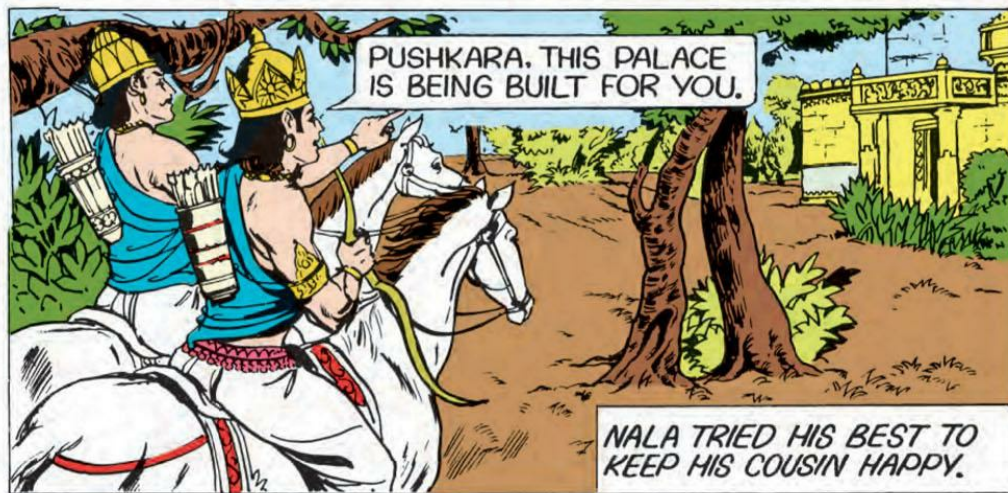
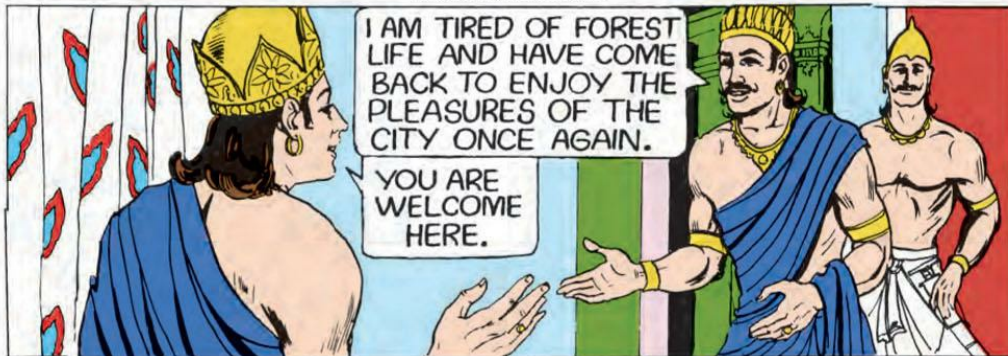


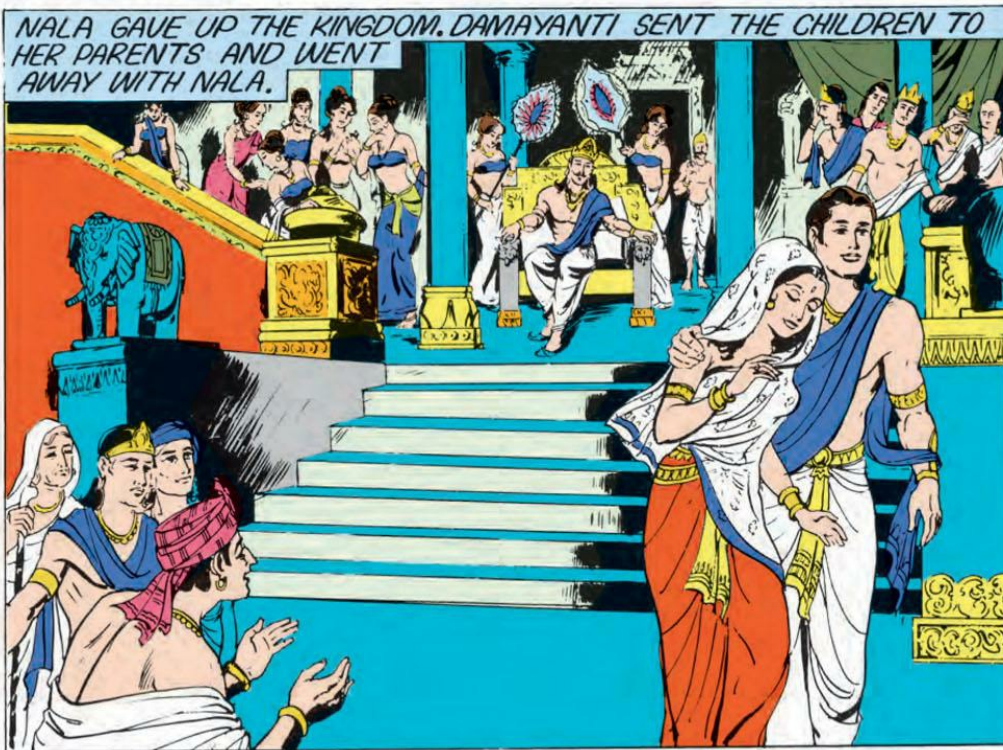
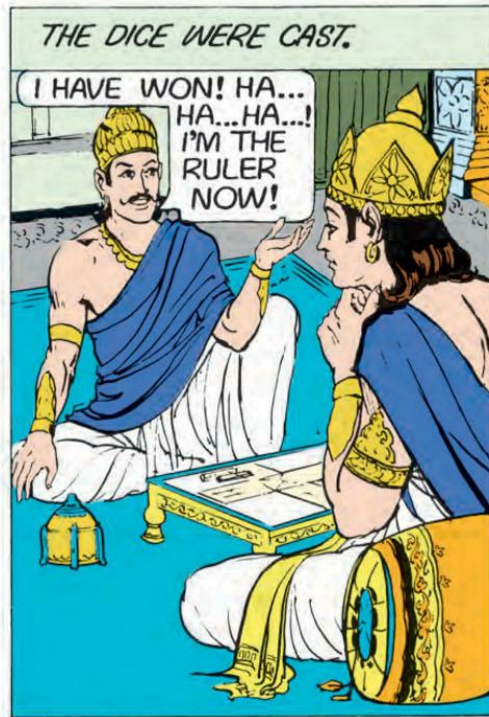
NALA BROUGHT DAMAYANTI TO HIS PALACE. PEOPLE, YOUNG AND OLD, DANCED WITH JOY.



HAPPY TIMES PASS QUICKLY. SOON, TWELVE YEARS WERE OVER. ONE DAY—







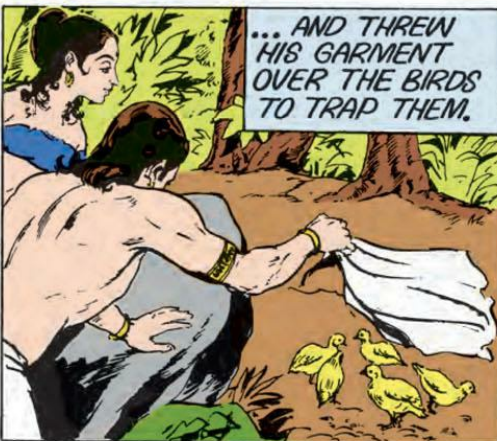
THEY WANDERED IN THE FOREST
WITHOUT FOOD AND WATER.



ONE DAY NALA
NOTICED A
FLOCK OF
GOLDEN BIRDS...

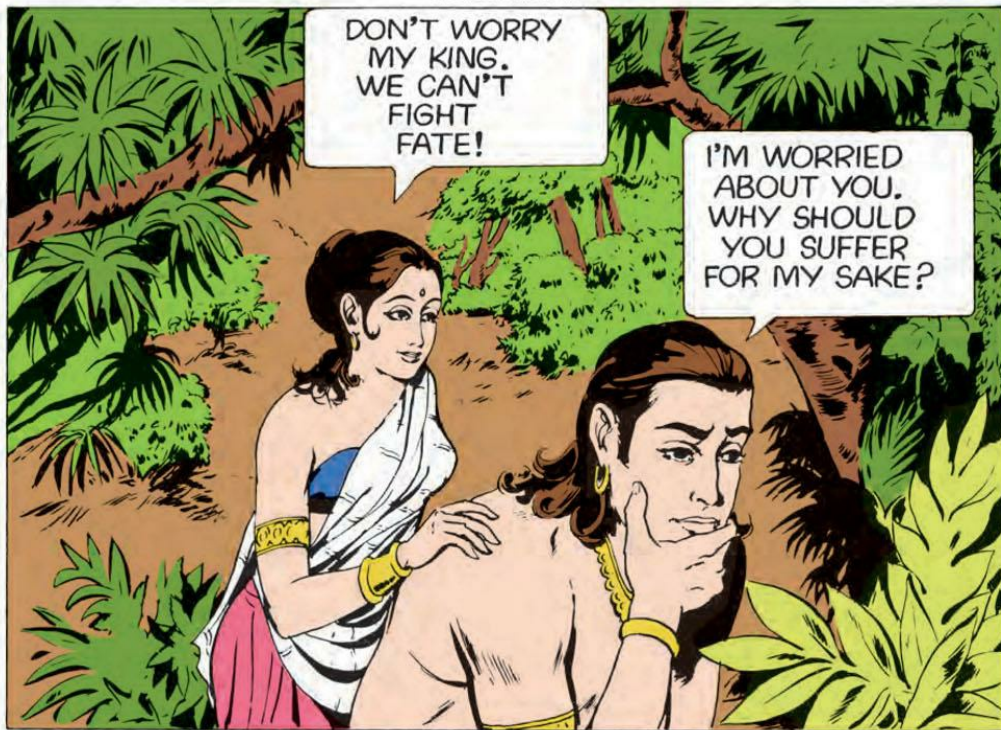


... AND THREW
HIS GARMENT
OVER THE BIRDS
TO TRAP THEM.



AS HE LEANED FORWARD, THE
BIRDS FLEW AWAY WITH THE
GARMENT - NALA'S ONLY
BELONGING!





AT NIGHT THEY SLEPT ON THE BARE GROUND COVERED BY DAMAYANTI'S SARI.



EARLY NEXT MORNING, WHEN NALA WOKE UP, HE TORE A PIECE FROM DAMAYANTI'S SARI, WRAPPING HIMSELF IN IT, HE QUIETLY WALKED AWAY.





NALA WALKED TEN STEPS AND—

OH!
SERPENT
GOD, WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?

I CHANGED YOUR
FORM SO THAT
YOU WON'T BE
RECOGNISED.
YOU'RE BAAHUK
FROM TODAY.

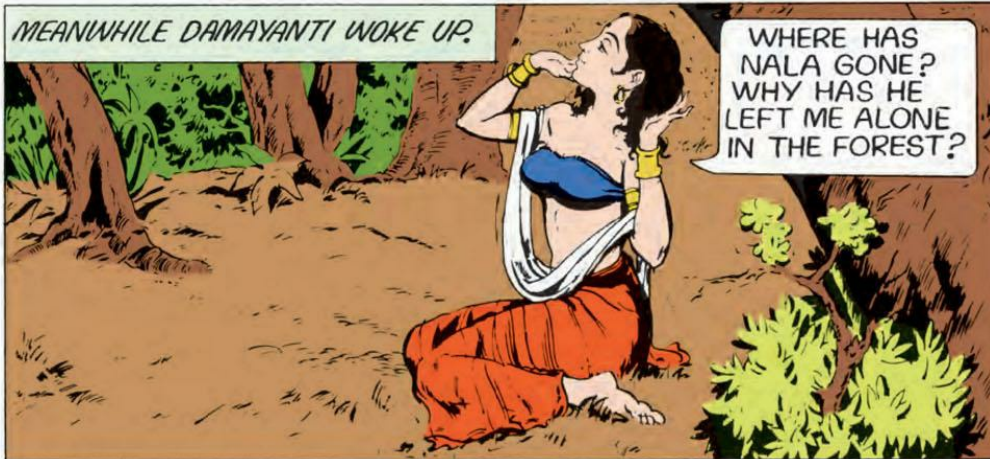


KING RITUPARNA OF
AYODHYA IS VERY
GOOD AT THE
GAME OF DICE.
GO TO HIM IF
YOU WISH TO
KNOW THE
SECRET OF
THE GAME!



AND, PUT ON
THIS MAGIC
DRESS WHEN
YOU WANT
TO BECOME
YOUR OLD SELF.



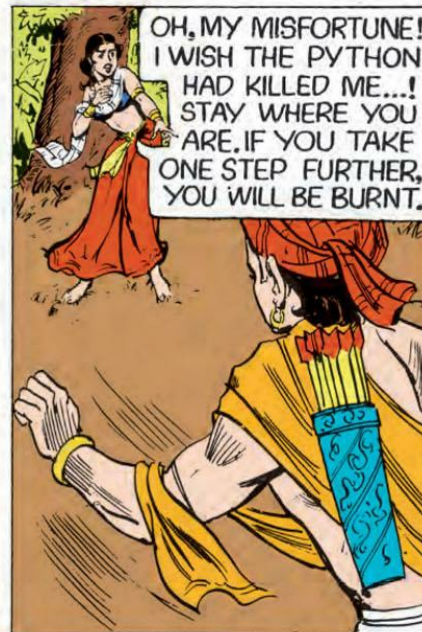
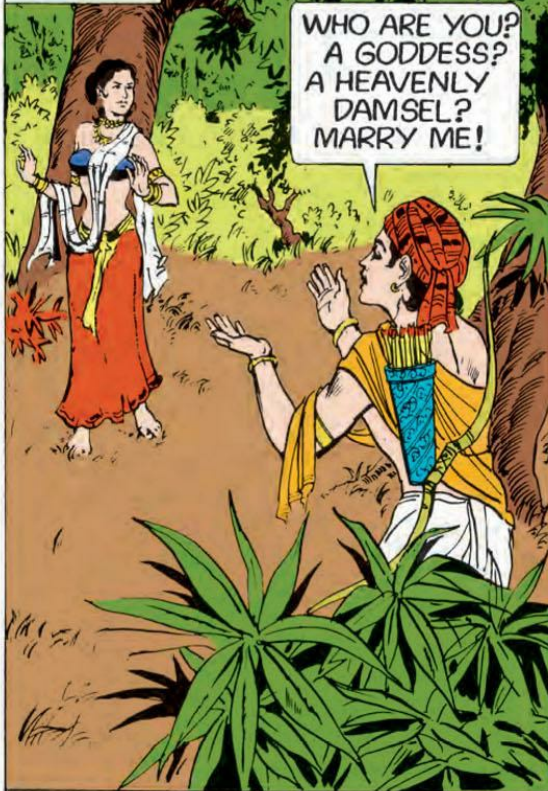


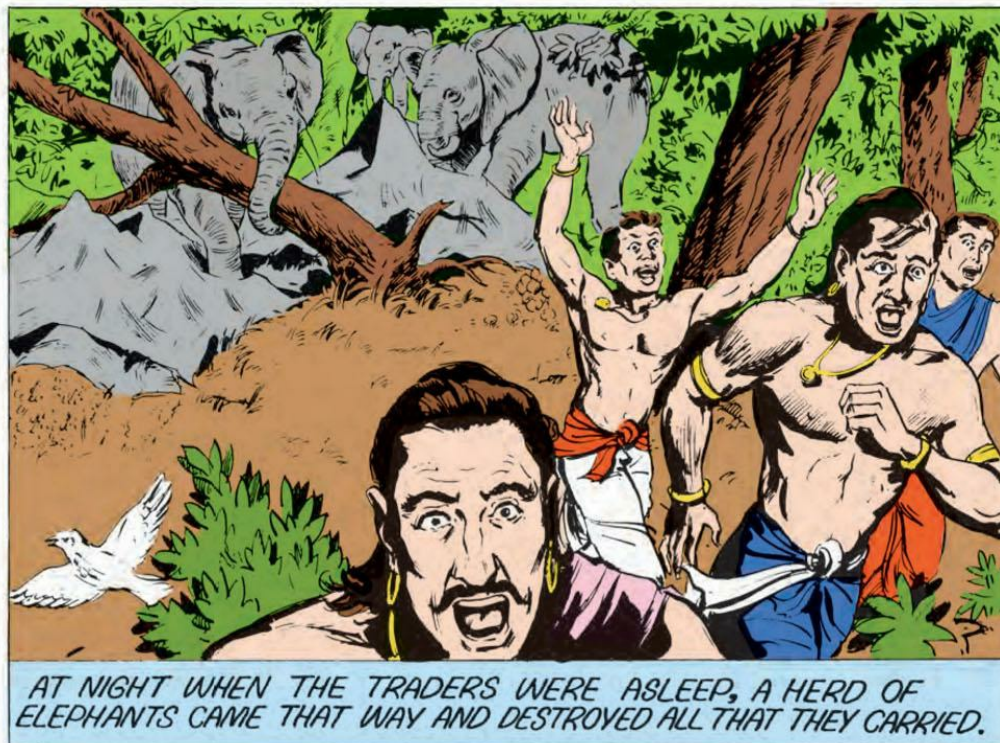
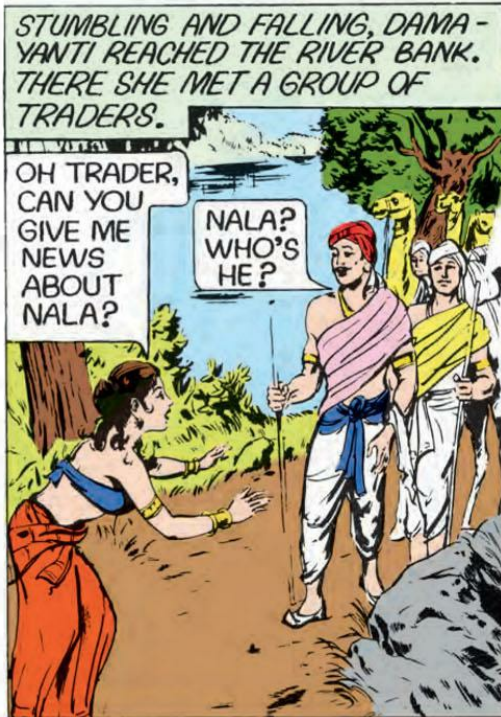
IT CAUGHT DAMAYANTI'S LEG.

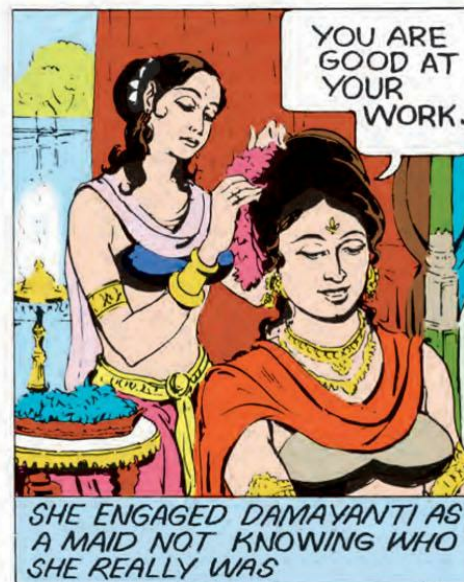
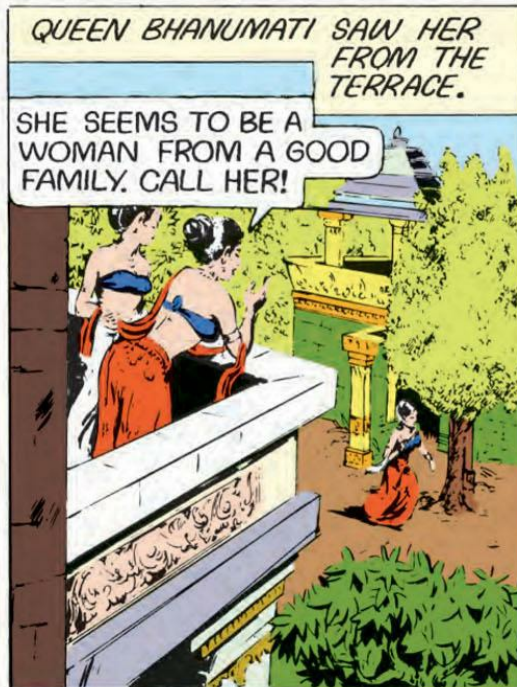


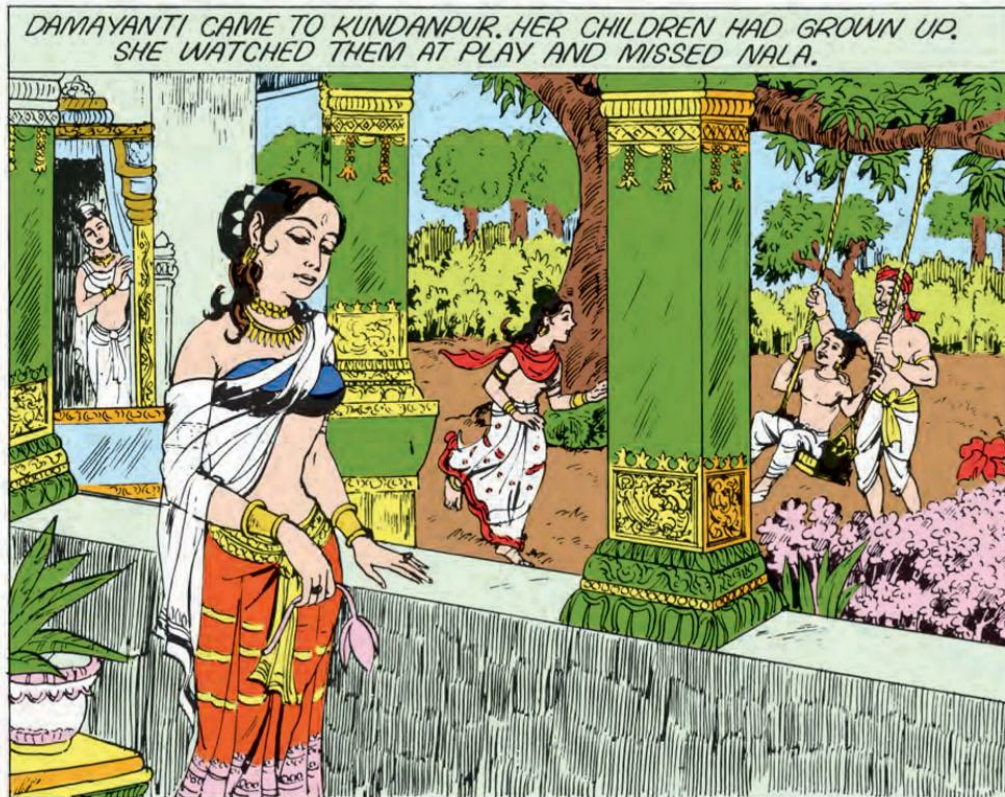
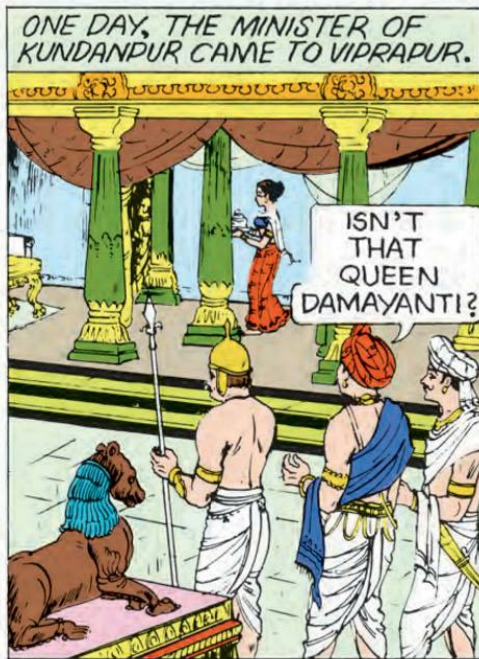
SUDDENLY A HUNTER'S ARROW HIT AND KILLED THE PYTHON.

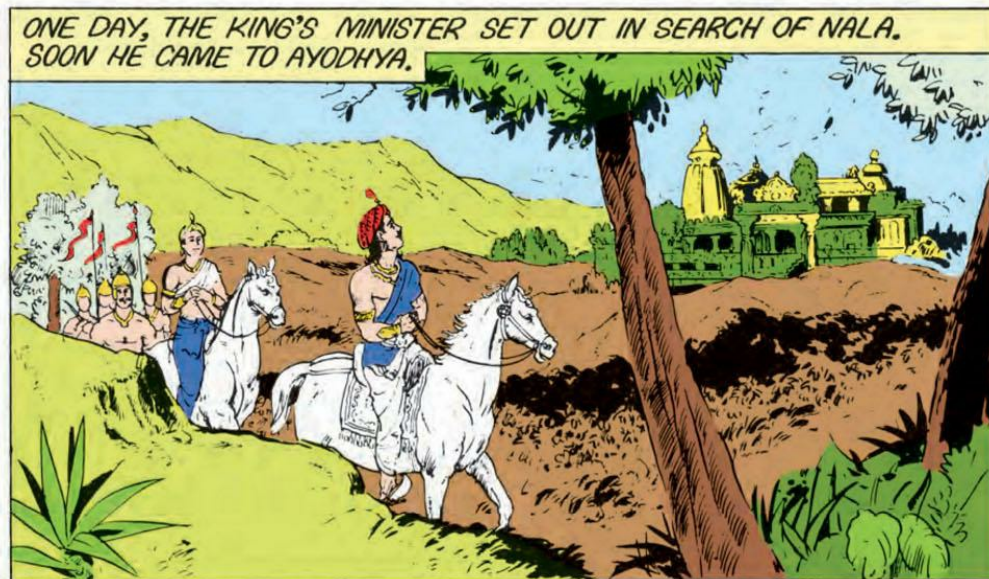
THEN -

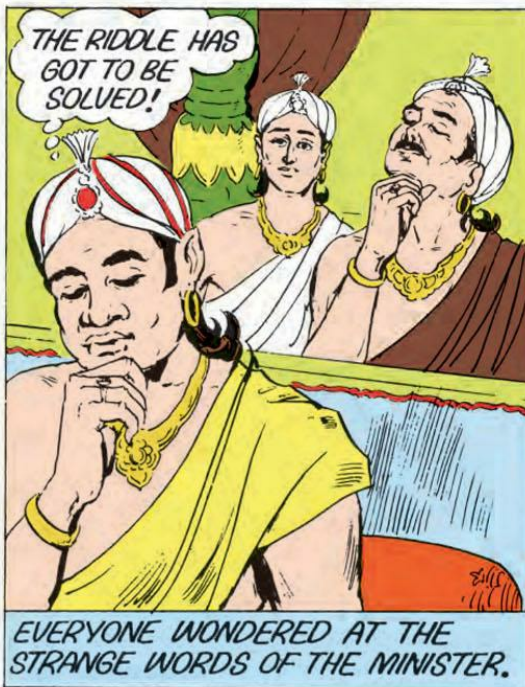
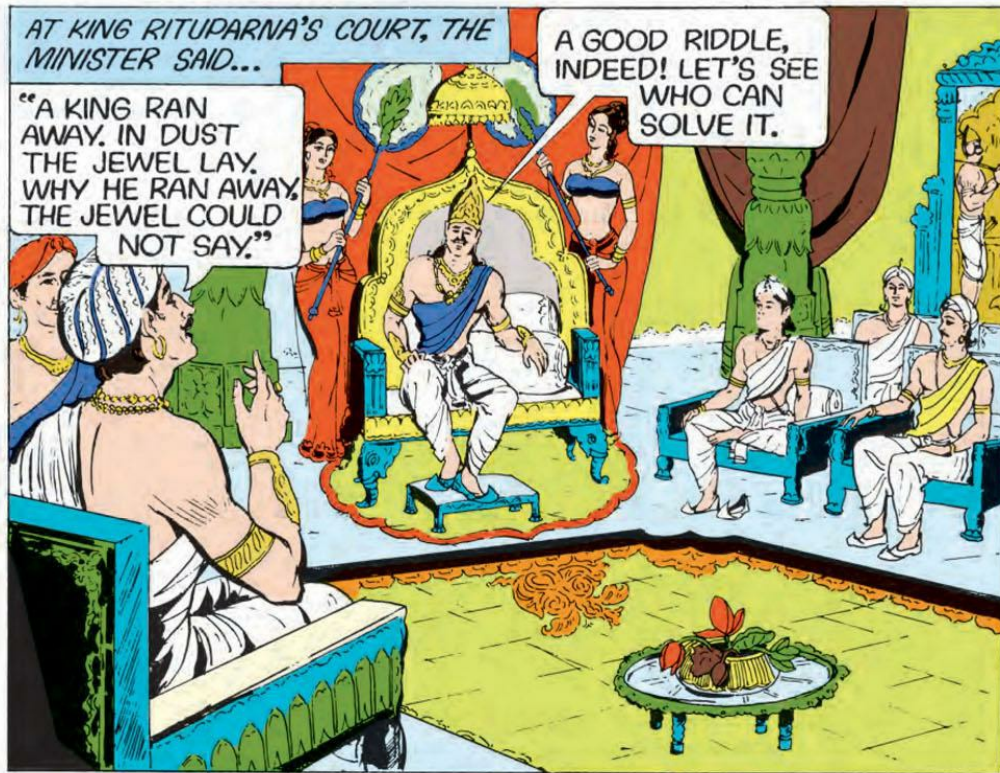






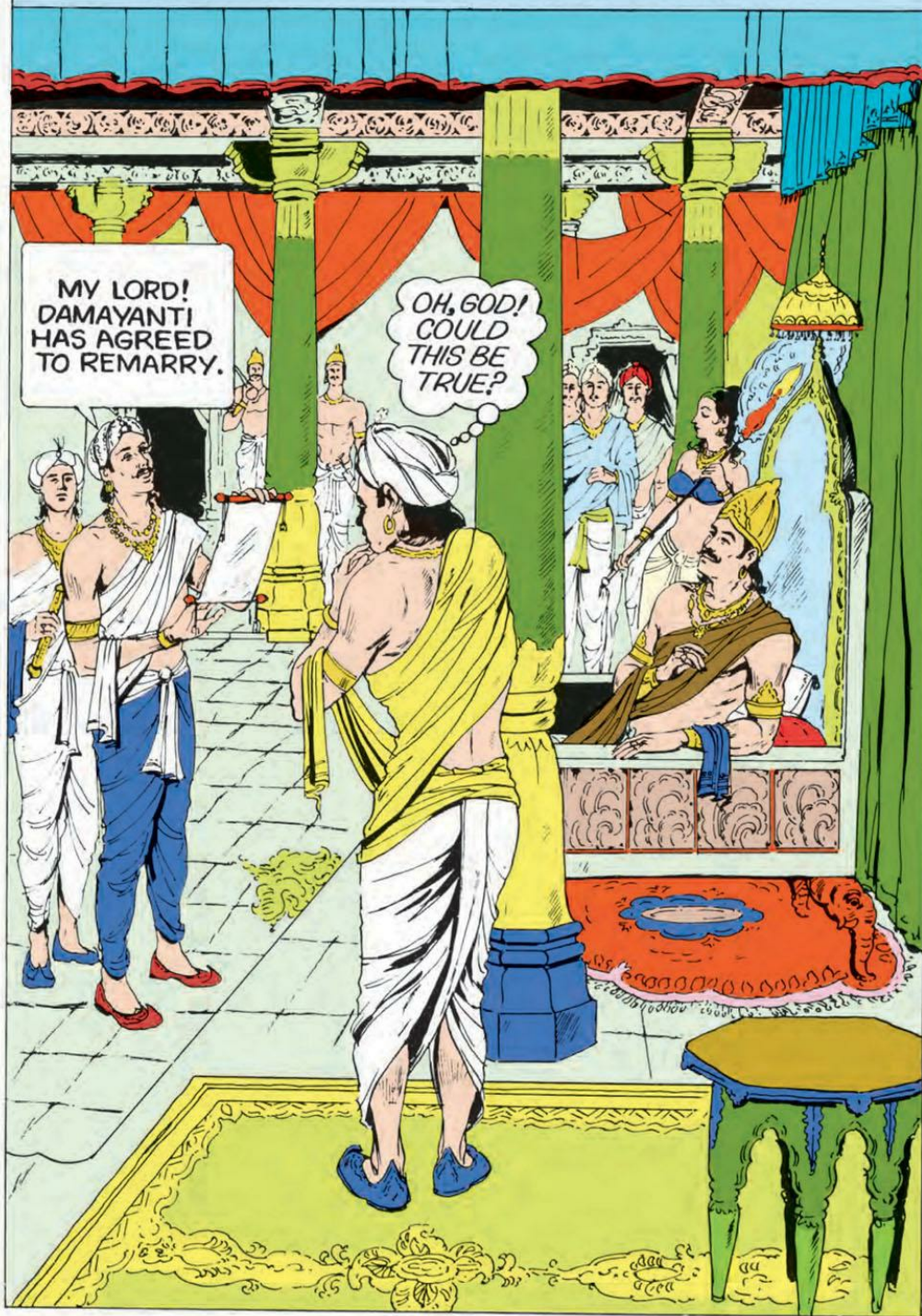






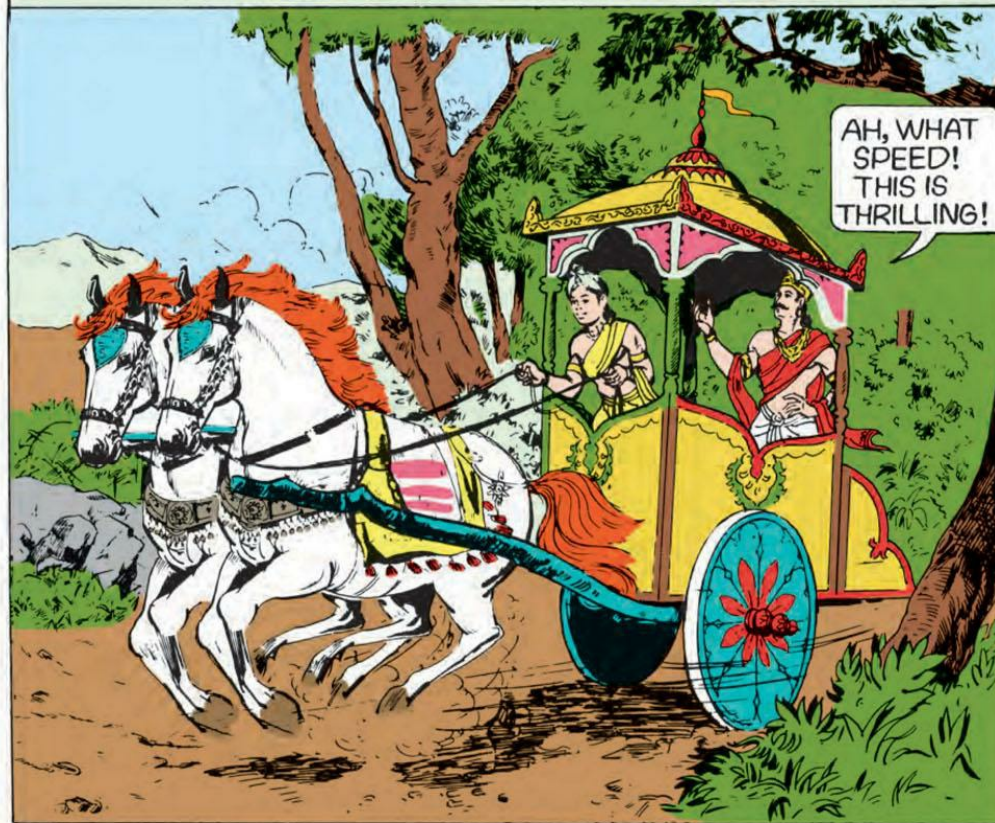


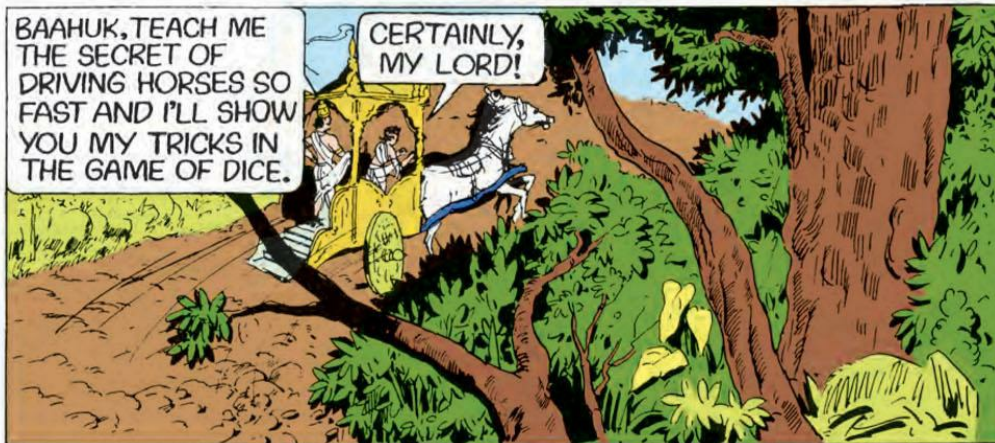
THE MINISTER AGAIN WENT TO AYODHYA.

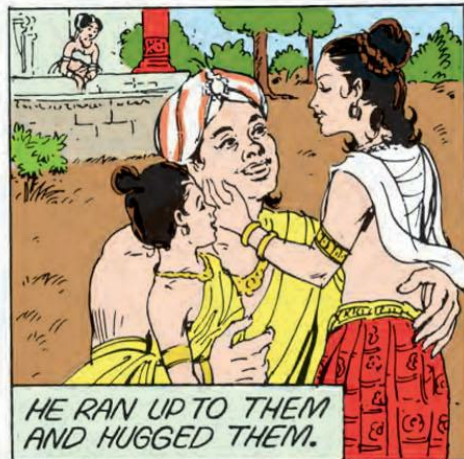
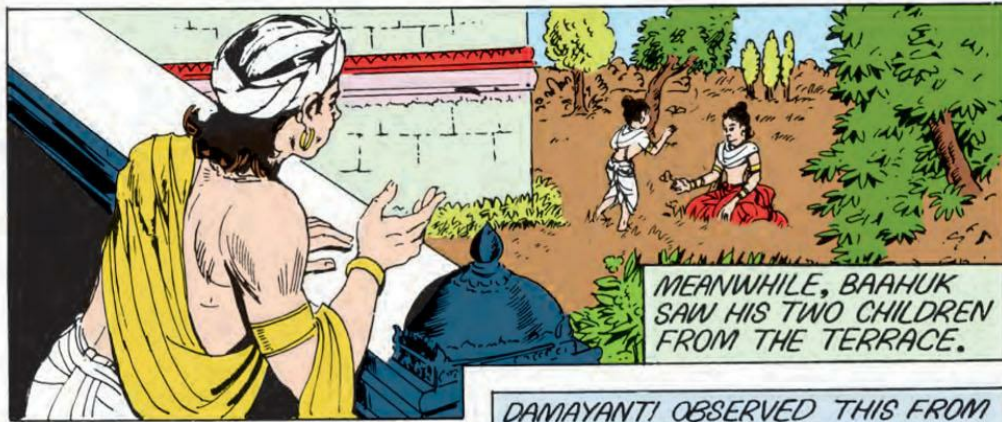




AND SURELY ENOUGH, THE HORSES SEEMED TO FLY IN THE AIR. NALA WAS A GREAT CHARIOTEER.



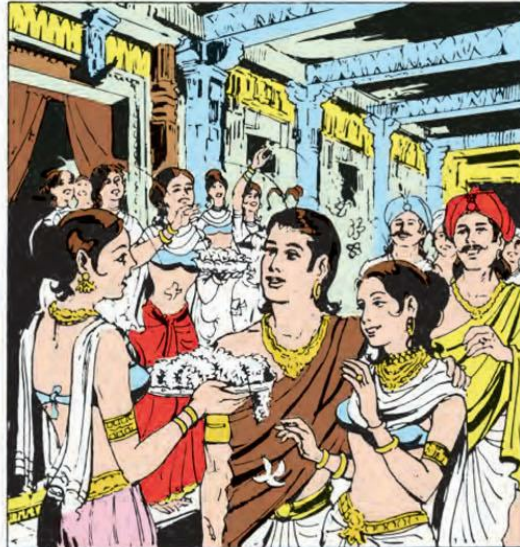




DAMAYANTI OBSERVED THIS FROM THE PALACE. SHE CAME RUNNING TO MEET HIM.

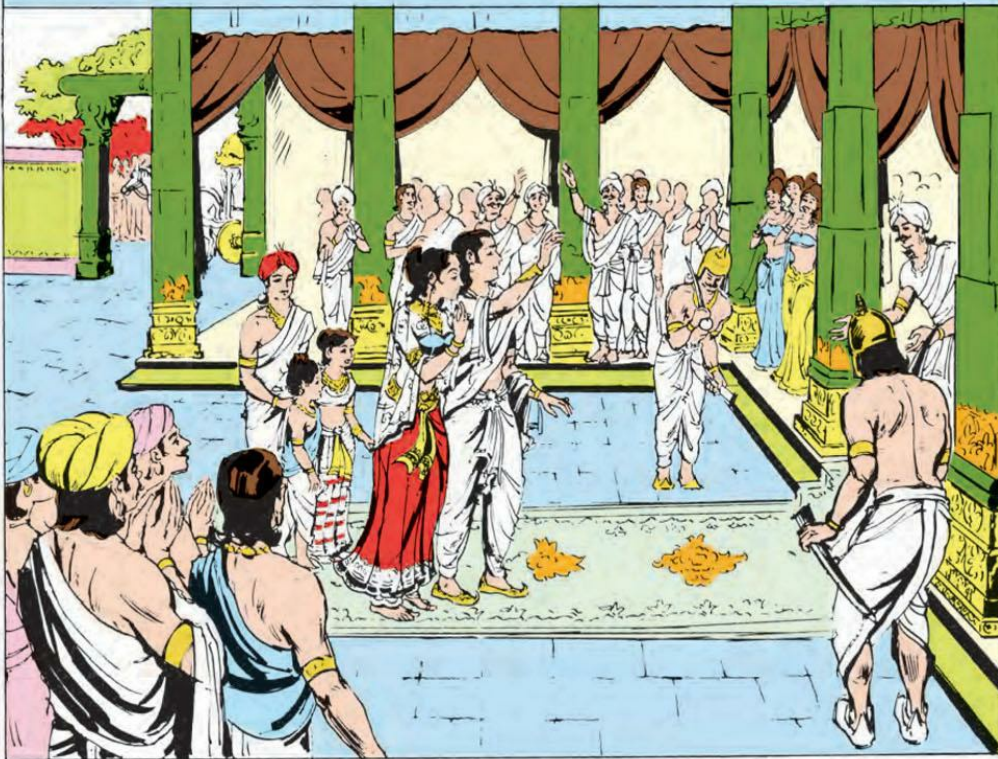


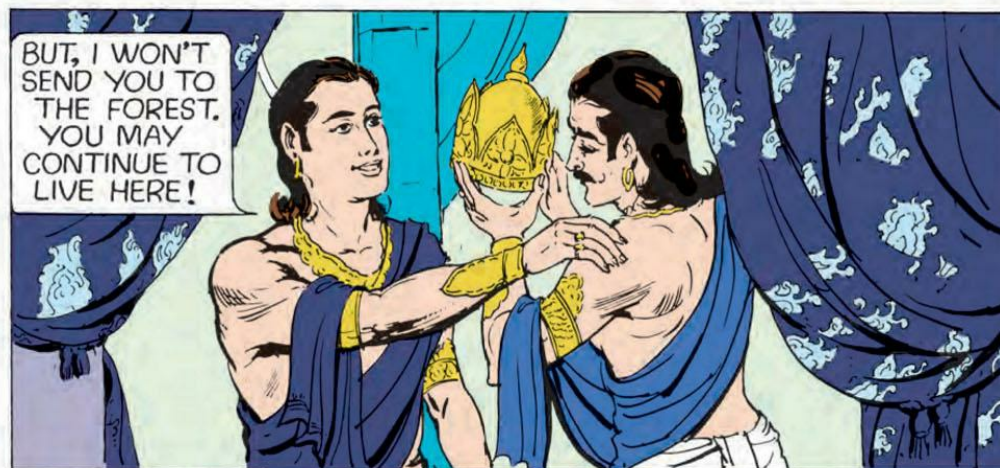
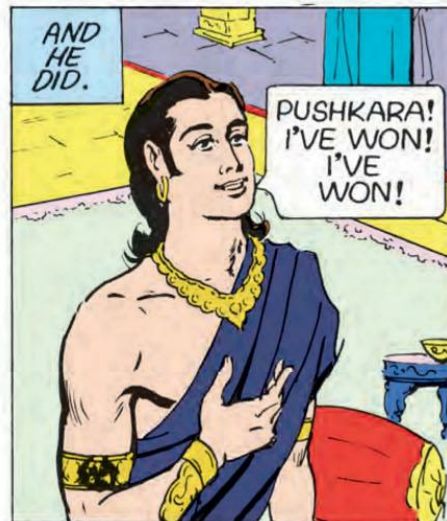
NALA PUT ON THE
MAGIC DRESS AND -



SEEING NALA SAFE AND SOUND, THE
PEOPLE WENT CRAZY WITH JOY.

NALA RETURNED TO HIS PALACE WITH DAMAYANTI AND THE CHILDREN.







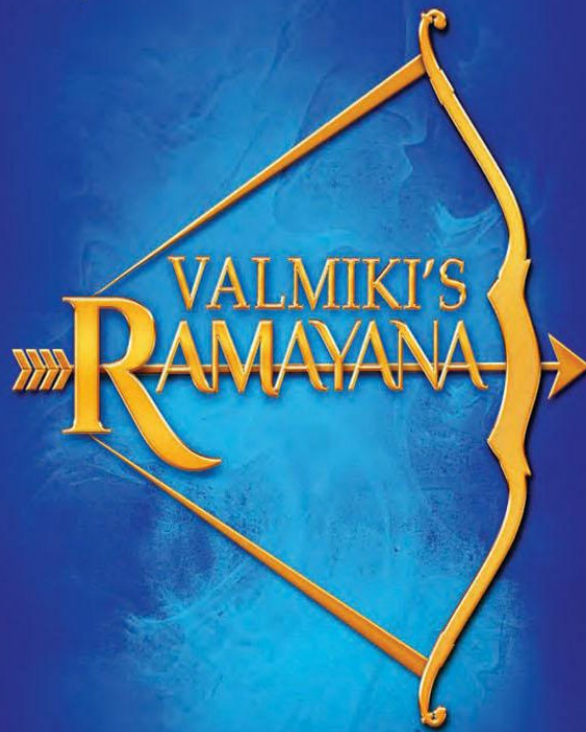
ONCE AGAIN, NALA WORE THE CROWN. DAMAYANTI WAS HIS QUEEN. THEY LIVED HAPPILY FOR MANY YEARS AND RULED THE COUNTRY WELL.



SEVEN KANDS! One Legendary Tale!



VALMIKI'S
RAMAYANA



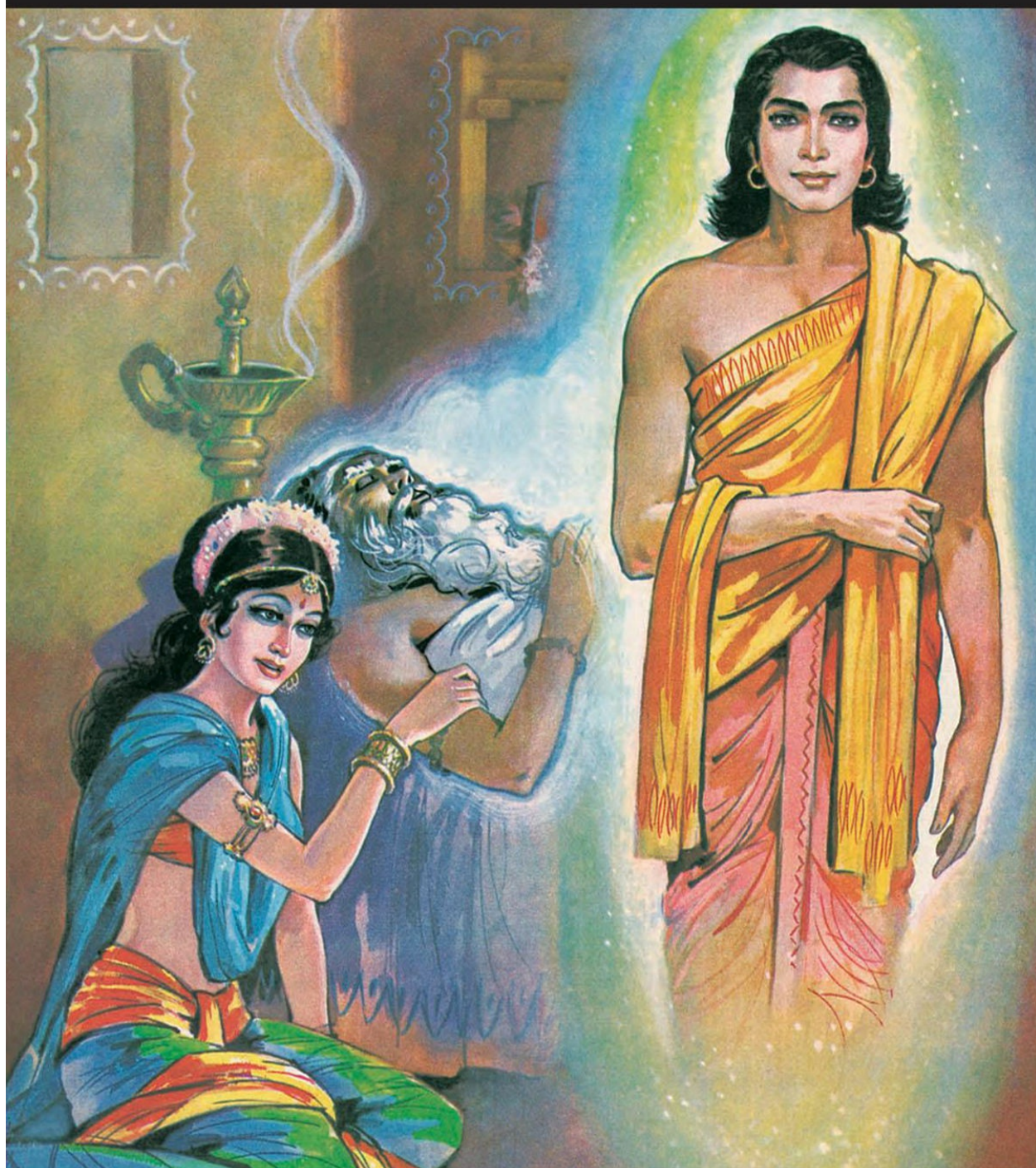
TAKE AN EPIC JOURNEY
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KACHA AND DEVAYANI

STAR-CROSSED LOVERS





The route to your roots

KACHA AND DEVAYANI

While the war was raging between the devas and asuras, the devas sent Kacha to the preceptor of the asuras. Kacha approached the asura guru as a student. It was in this background of hate, war and rivalry that the beautiful Devayani, the proud daughter, of the asura guru, fell in love with Kacha, the man who was being watched by the asuras with increasing suspicion – they knew Kacha was seeking the key to immortality from their guru. Then a twist in the tale throws the dreams of the young couple into disarray.

Script
Kamala Chandrakant

Illustrations
Souren Roy

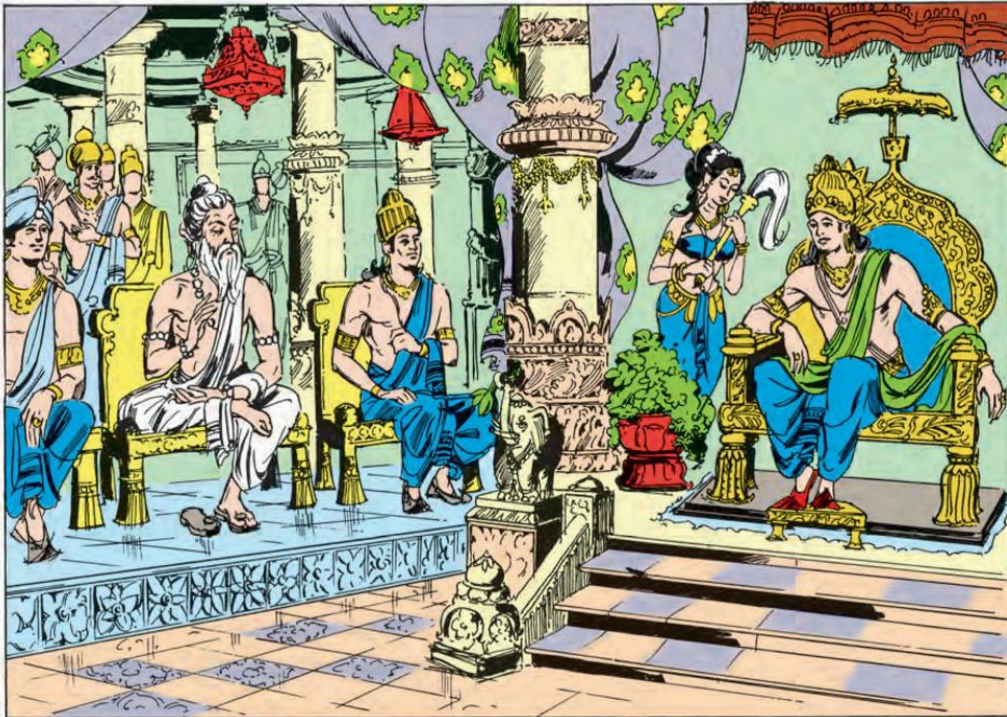
Editor
Anant Pai

Cover illustration by: Dayal Patkar

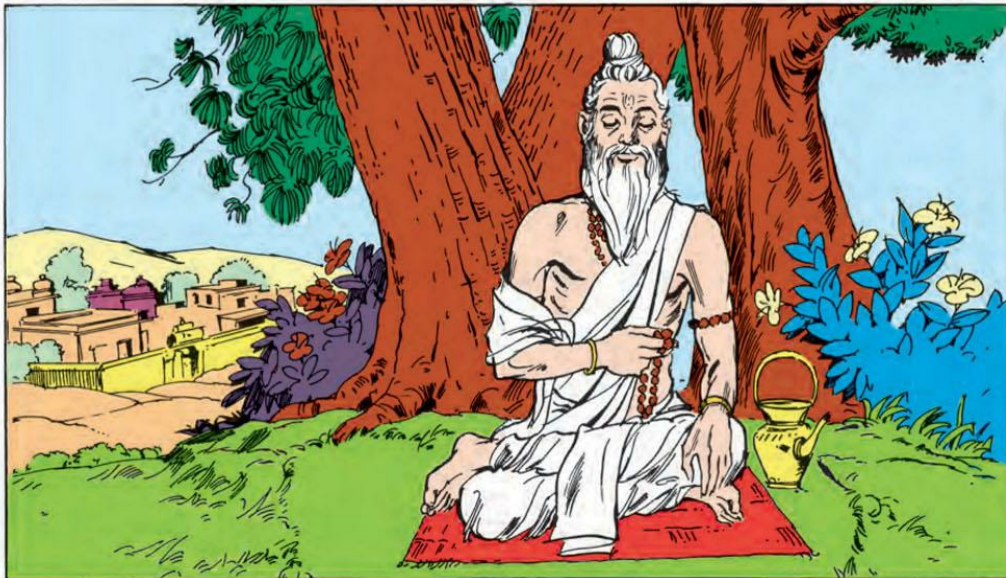
KACHA DEVAYANI



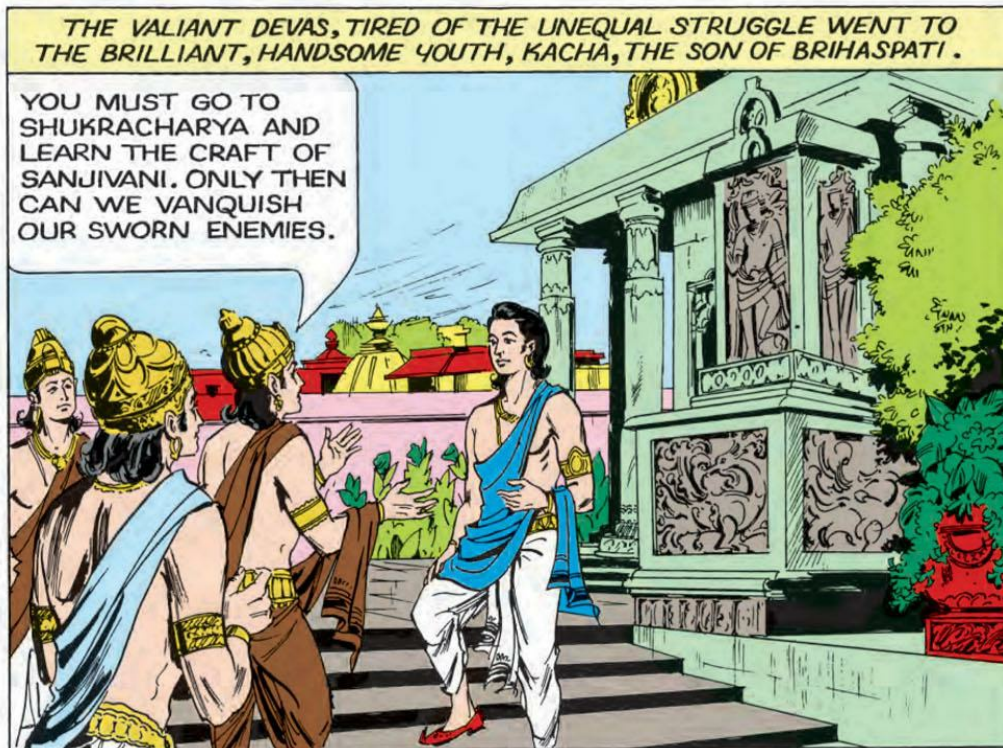
IN THE DAYS OF YORE, THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS WERE EVER
STRUGGLING FOR THE LORDSHIP OF THE THREE WORLDS.



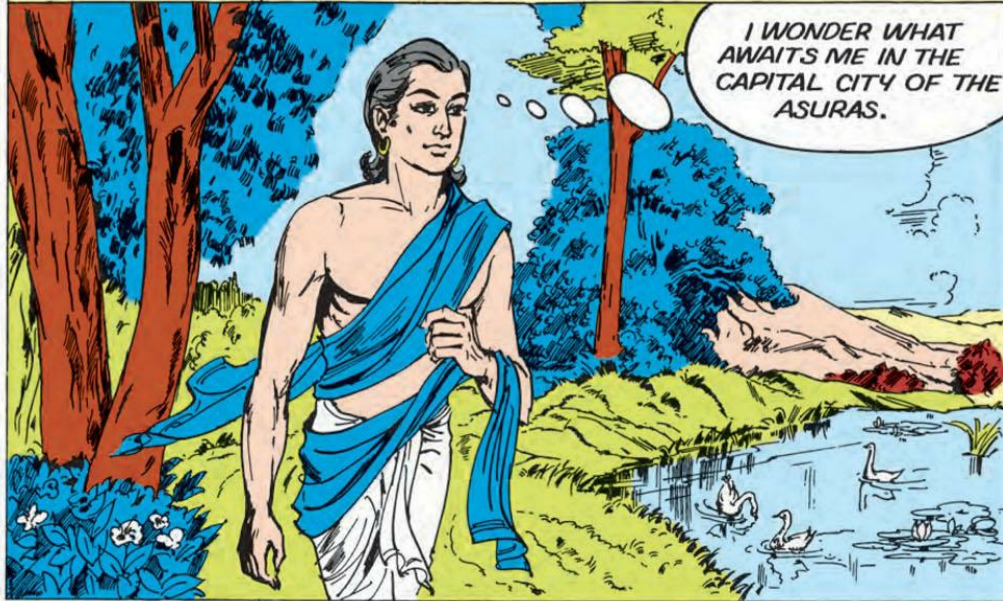
BOTH HAD WISE MEN TO GUIDE THEM. BRIHASPATI, THE SON OF SAGE ANGIRAS, LIVED IN THE ABODE OF INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS.



AND SHUKRACHARYA THE FAVOURITE PUPIL OF SAGE ANGIRAS, LIVED IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE ASURA KING, VRISHAPARVA.



THE OBEDIENT AND DUTIFUL KACHA IMMEDIATELY SET OUT TO MEET SHUKRACHARYA.



THERE HE HUMBLY PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE THE GREAT WISE ONE.

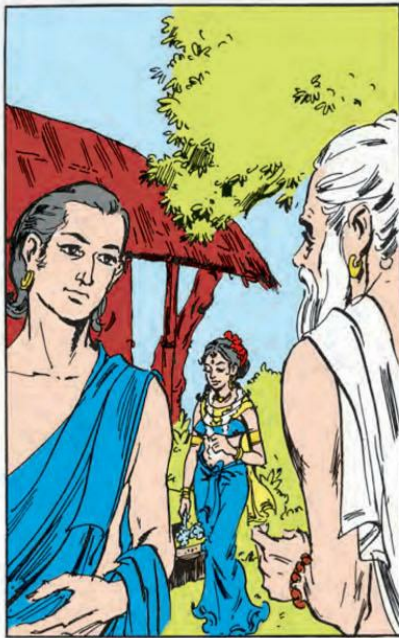


SHUKRACHARYA GAVE HIM A WARM WELCOME.

I ACCEPT YOU AS MY PUPIL, O WORTHY KACHA, SON OF LEARNED BRIHASPATI.



KACHA AND DEVAYANI

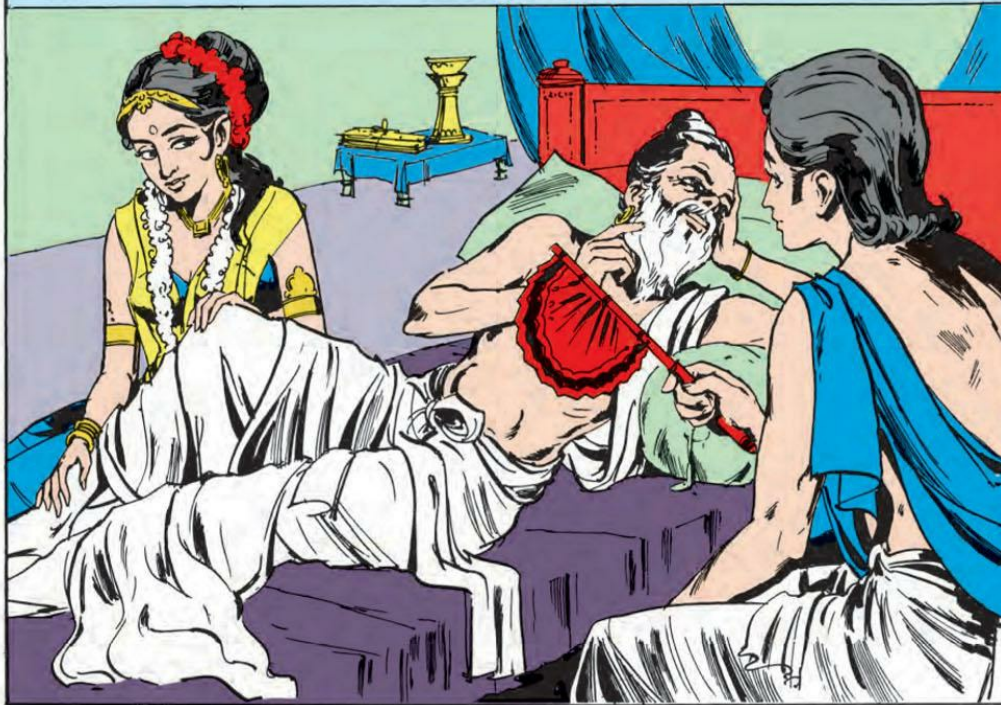


SHUKRACHARYA HAD A DAUGHTER,
DEVAYANI, WHOM HE LOVED DEARLY.

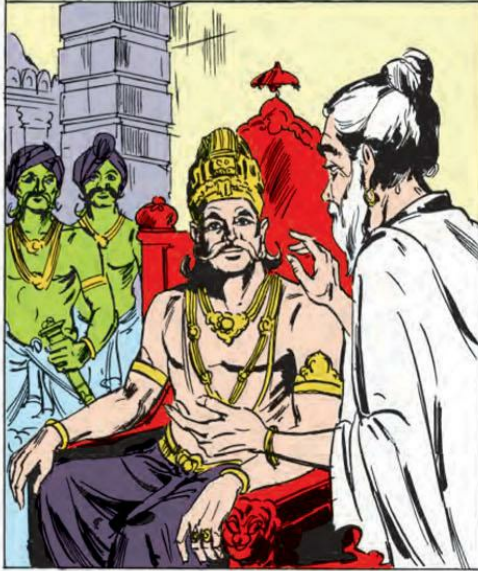
COME DEVAYANI, MY CHILD.
MEET THE WORTHY KACHA,
WHO HAS VOWED TO BE
MY PUPIL TILL THE PERIOD
OF HIS STUDIES IS OVER.



ALL LEARNING IN THOSE DAYS WAS HANDED DOWN BY WORD OF MOUTH.
THE PUPIL LIVED WITH HIS GURU'S FAMILY AS ONE OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.
IN RETURN FOR HIS EDUCATION, HE SERVED HIS GURU WITH LOVE AND
DEVOTION.



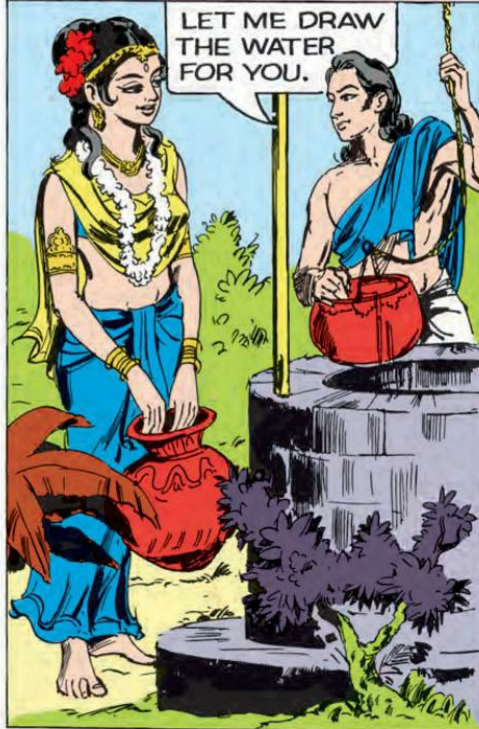
BUT MOST OF THE DAY
SHUKRACHARYA WAS EITHER BUSY
AT COURT...



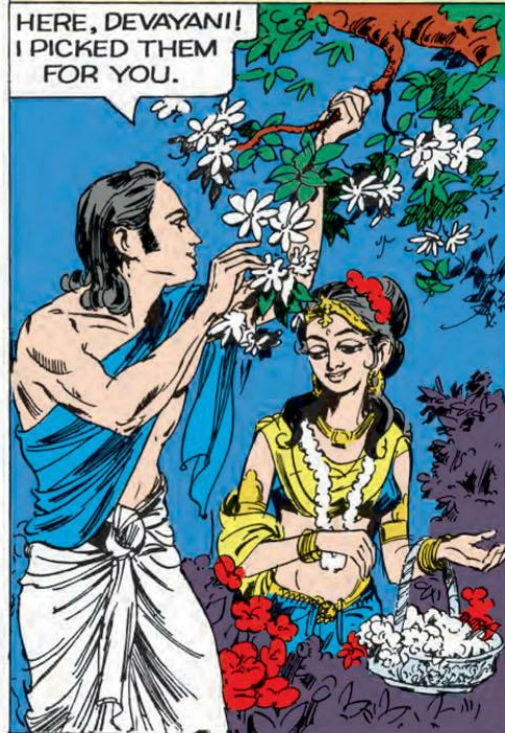
...OR DEEP IN MEDITATION.



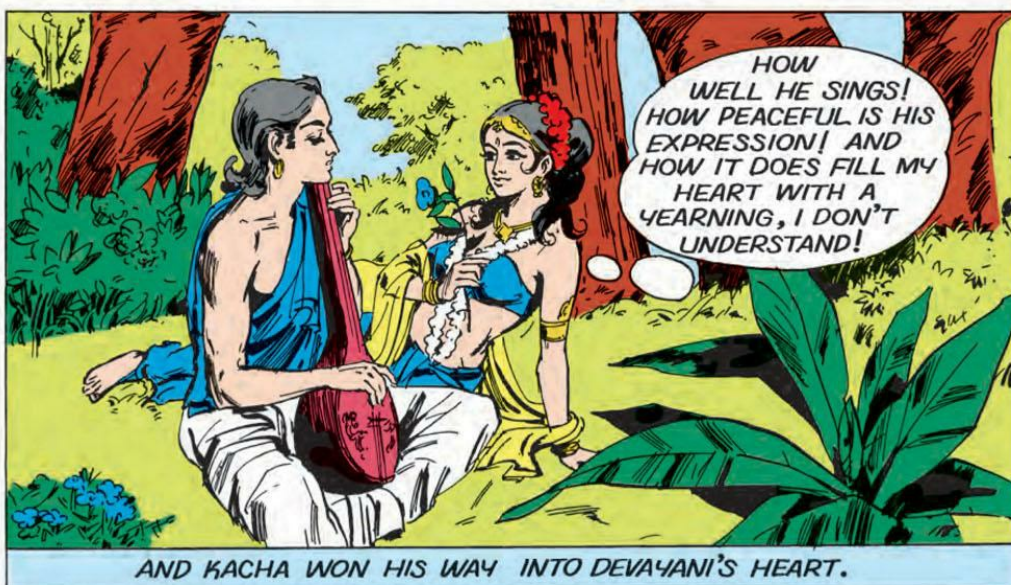
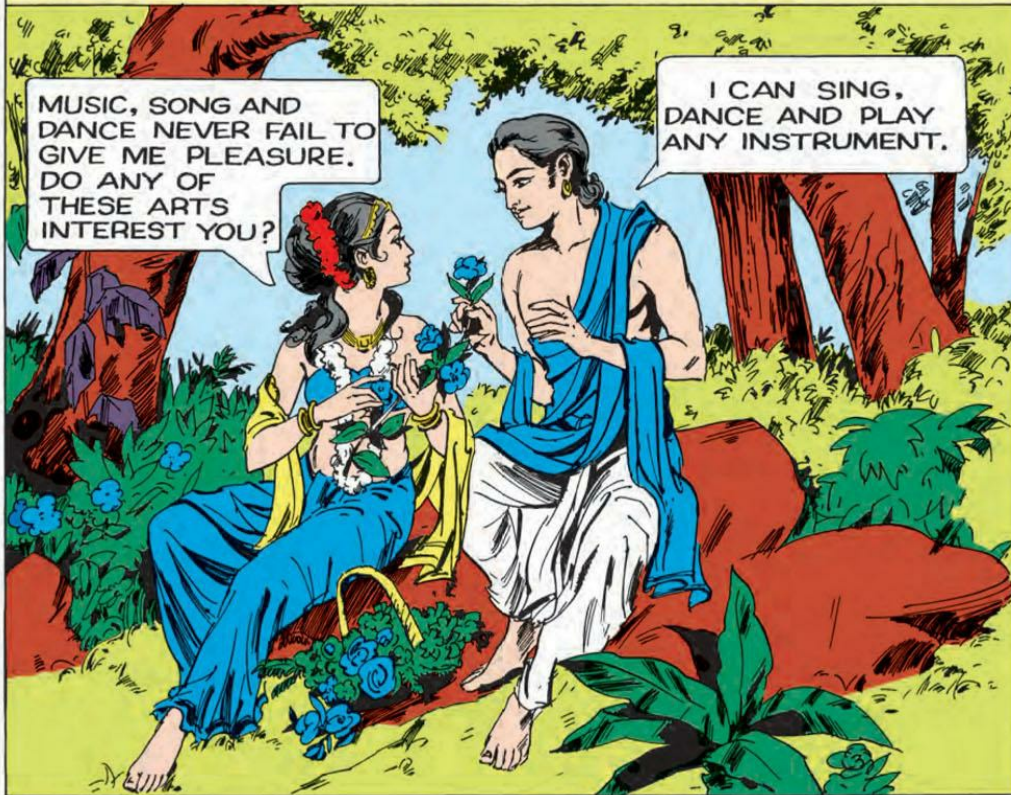
SO KACHA HELPED DEVAYANI
WITH HER DAILY CHORES.



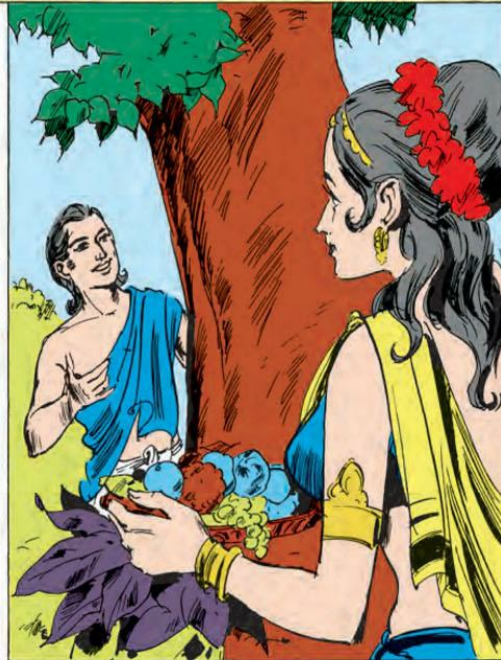
AND TENDERLY FULFILLED HER
SLIGHTEST WISH.



WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF HIS ARRIVAL, KACHA FOUND HIMSELF SPENDING ALL HIS LEISURE HOURS IN THE COMPANY OF THE LIVELY DEVAYANI.

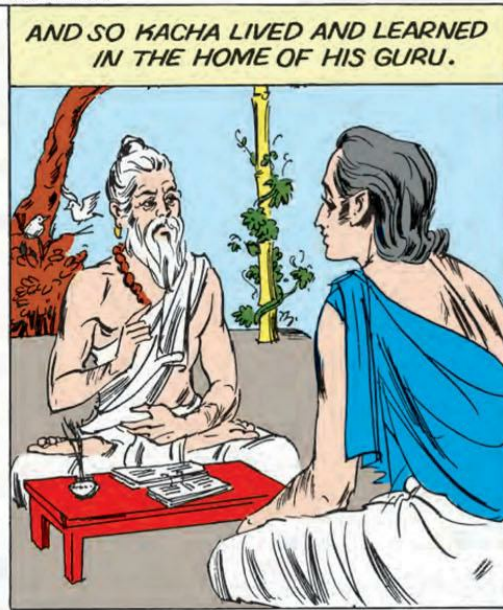
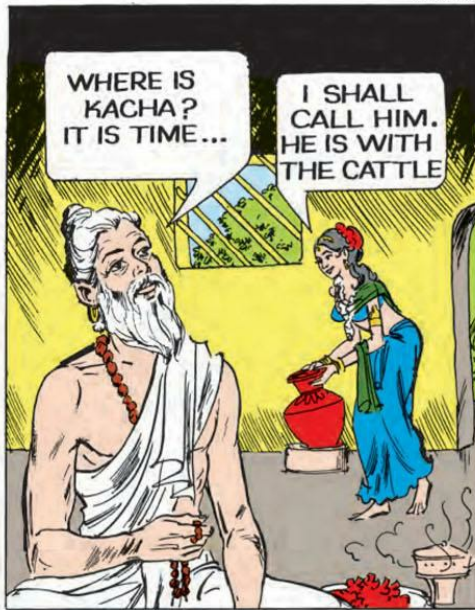


ONCE TO TEASE HER, KACHA HID HIMSELF AMONG THE TREES.



BUT DEVAYANI COULD NOT EVEN
PRETEND TO BE ANGRY FOR LONG.





BUT AS THE YEARS PASSED, THE ASURAS BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF KACHA.



ALL THE ASURAS ROSE AS ONE ROARING ANGRILY.



WAIT! PATIENCE!
WE SHALL HAVE
TO DO THIS IN
SECRECY. A GURU
WILL NOT LET
HIS PUPIL BE
SLAIN.



THE ASURAS WAITED, BUT
IMPATIENTLY. THEN ONE DAY -



THE ASURAS FELL UPON HIM AND SLEW HIM.



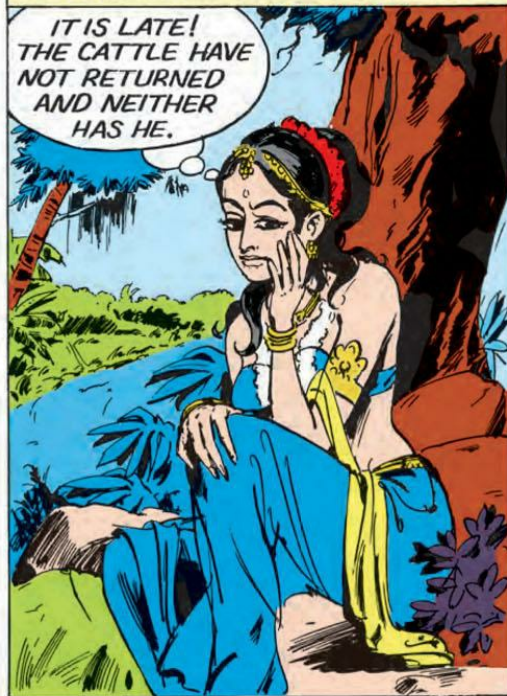
THEY CUT HIM INTO PIECES.

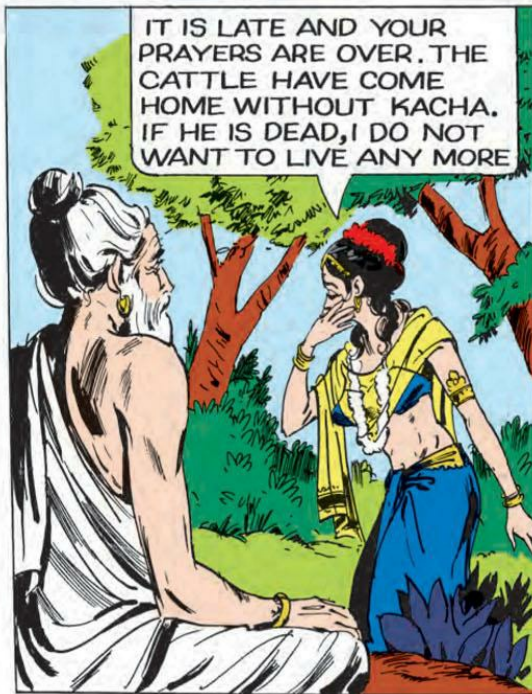


AND FED HIS FLESH TO THEIR DOGS.

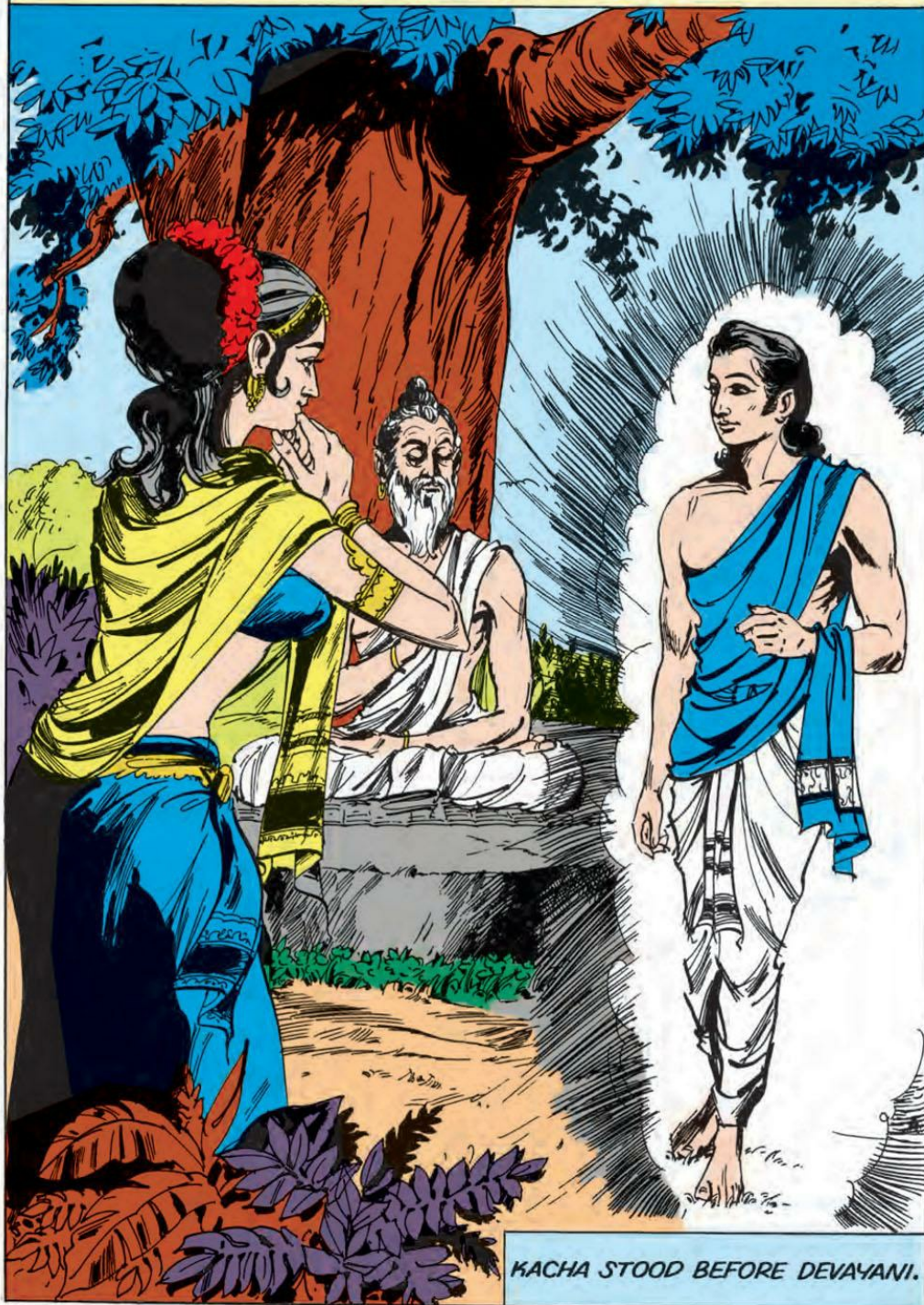


AS USUAL DEVAYANI WAITED FOR HIM.

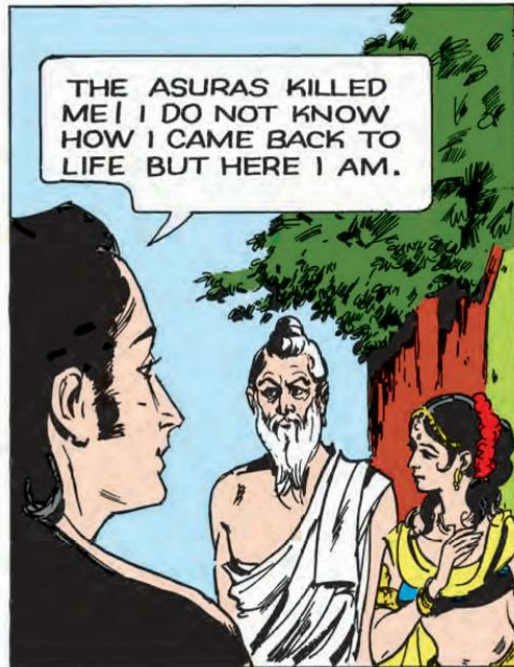




SHUKRACHARYA CLOSED HIS EYES AND LO!

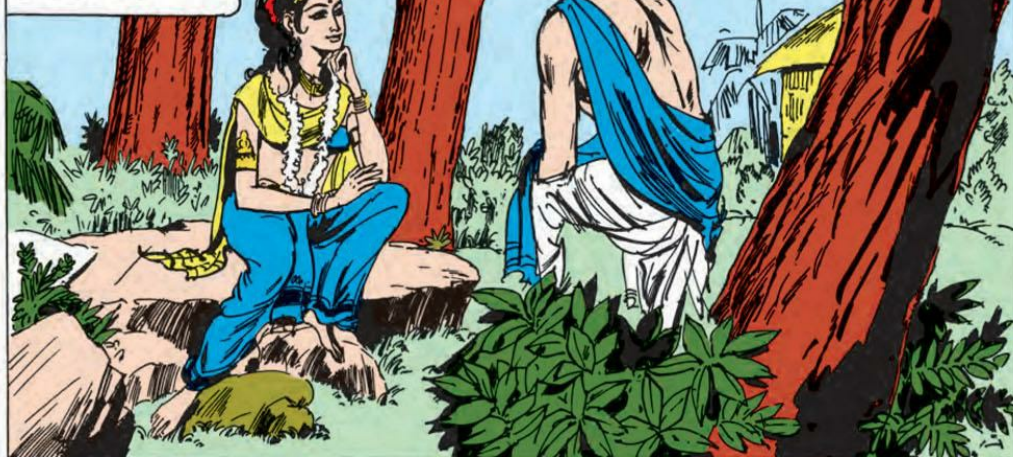


KACHA STOOD BEFORE DEVAYANI.



KACHA CONTINUED LIVING IN THE HOME OF HIS GURU. ONE DAY -

LONG AGO, WHILE WALKING DEEP IN THE FOREST WITH MY FATHER, I HAD SEEN SOME FLOWERS. THEIR PERFUME STILL LINGERS IN MY MEMORY. KACHA, WILL YOU BRING SOME FOR ME? THEY BLOOM ONLY IN THIS SEASON.



KACHA COULD HARDLY REFUSE THE ENCHANTING DEVAYANI SUCH A REQUEST.

SO HE WANDERED DEEP INTO THE FOREST IN SEARCH OF THE FLOWERS.
THE ASURAS WERE WAITING FOR JUST SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY.

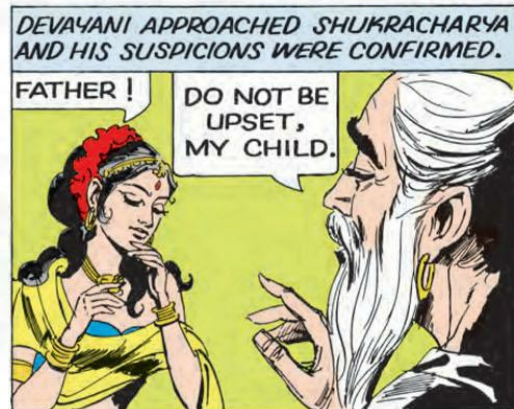
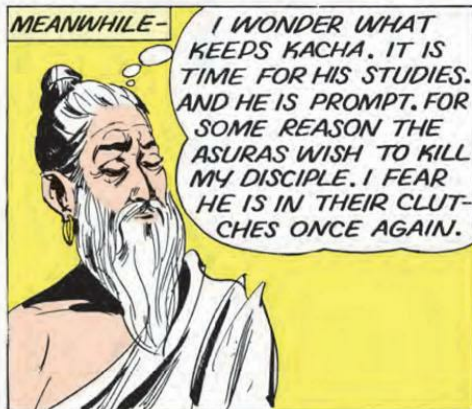


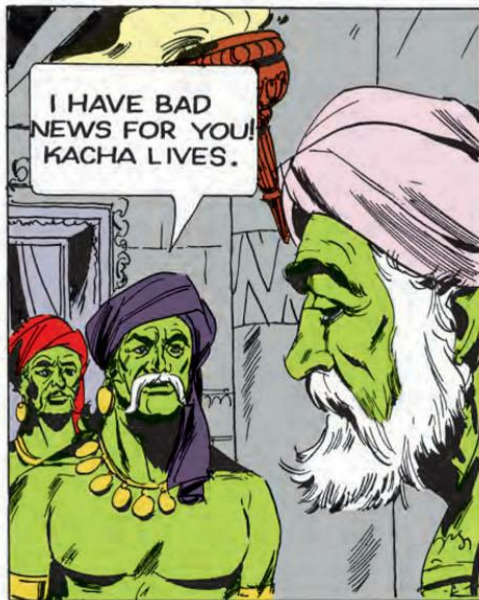
THEY WAYLAID HIM AND SLEW HIM.



THIS TIME THEY CARRIED HIS BODY
TO A LONELY SPOT. THERE -







HIS BODY WAS CREMATED.



THE ASHES WERE CAREFULLY COLLECTED...

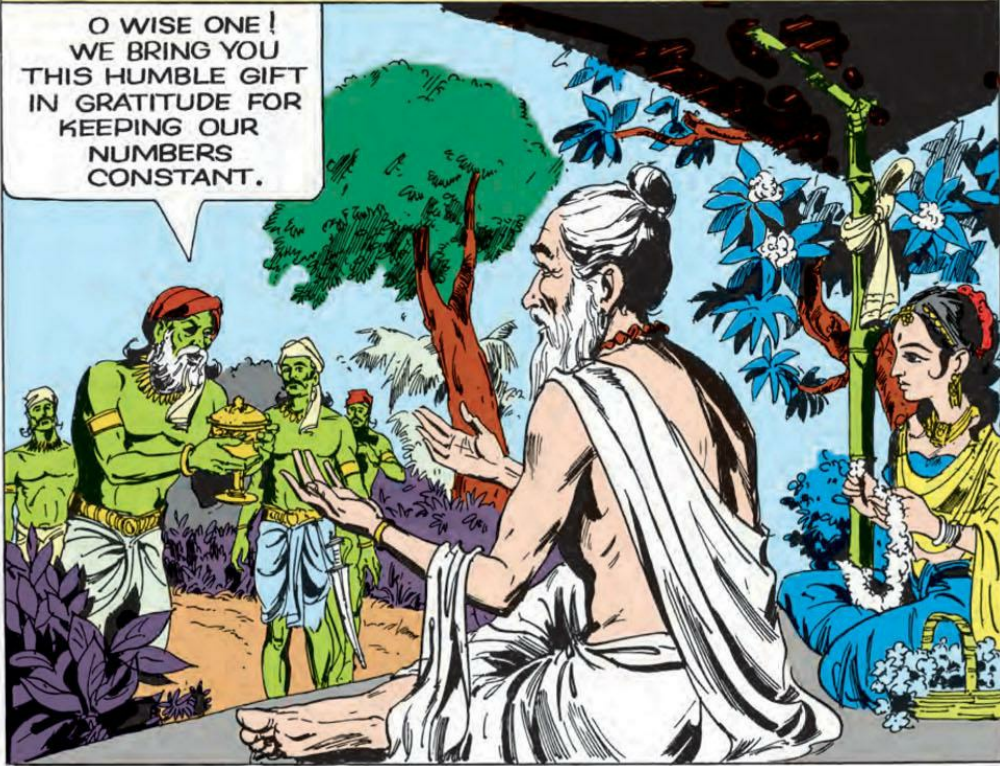


... AND MIXED INTO A GOBLET OF WINE.

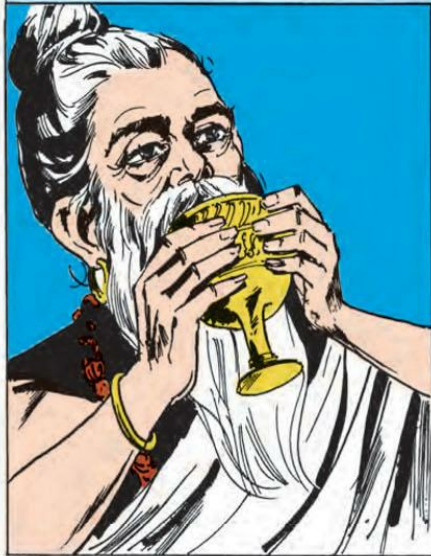


THE GREYING ASURA THEN TOOK THE GOBLET OF WINE TO SHUKRACHARYA.

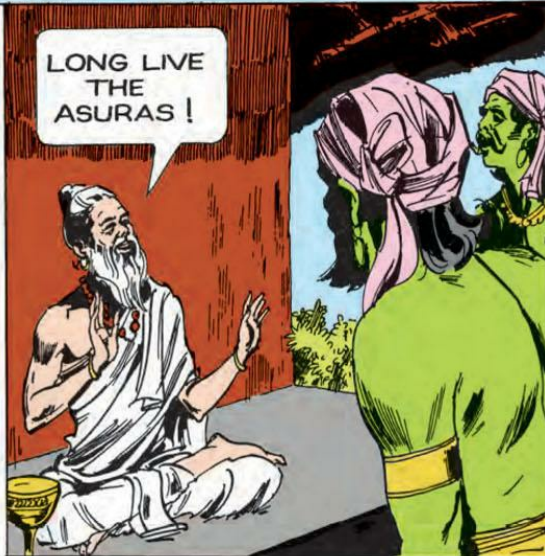
O WISE ONE !
WE BRING YOU
THIS HUMBLE GIFT
IN GRATITUDE FOR
KEEPING OUR
NUMBERS
CONSTANT.



IF SHUKRACHARYA HAD A WEAKNESS IT WAS FOR WINE. HE EMPTIED THE CONTENTS OF THE GOBLET IN ONE GULP.



LONG LIVE
THE
ASURAS !



DEVAYANI WAITED IN VAIN FOR KACHA.



THE CATTLE RETURNED HOME ONCE MORE WITHOUT KACHA.



SHUKRACHARYA KNEW THE FUTILITY OF RECALLING KACHA FROM THE DEAD.



BUT DEVAYANI'S LOVE FOR KACHA KNEW NO REASONING.

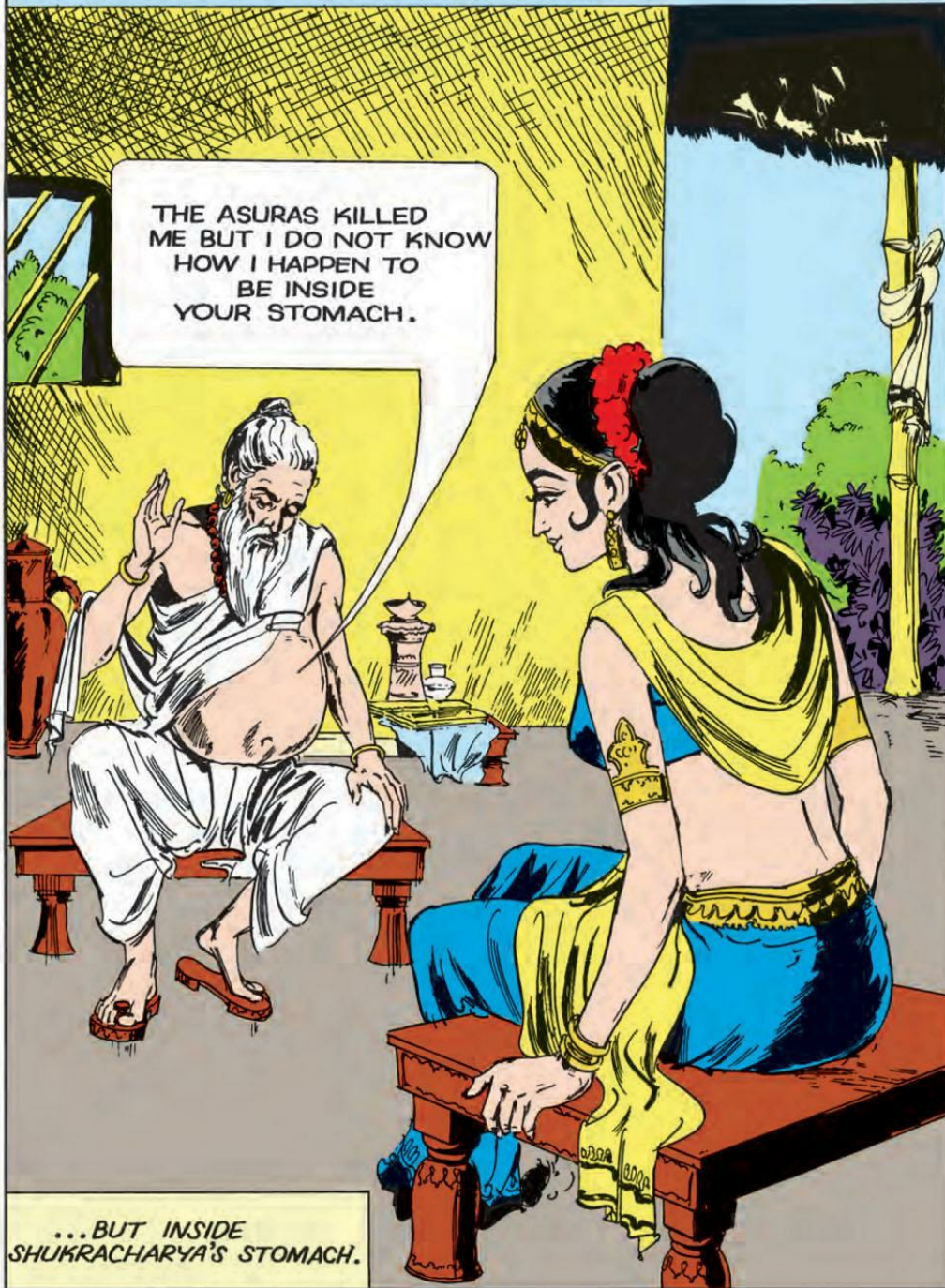
KACHA WAS A GOOD PUPIL AND LOYAL TO US. I LOVED HIM DEARLY AND NOW THAT HE IS DEAD, I DO NOT WISH TO LIVE.

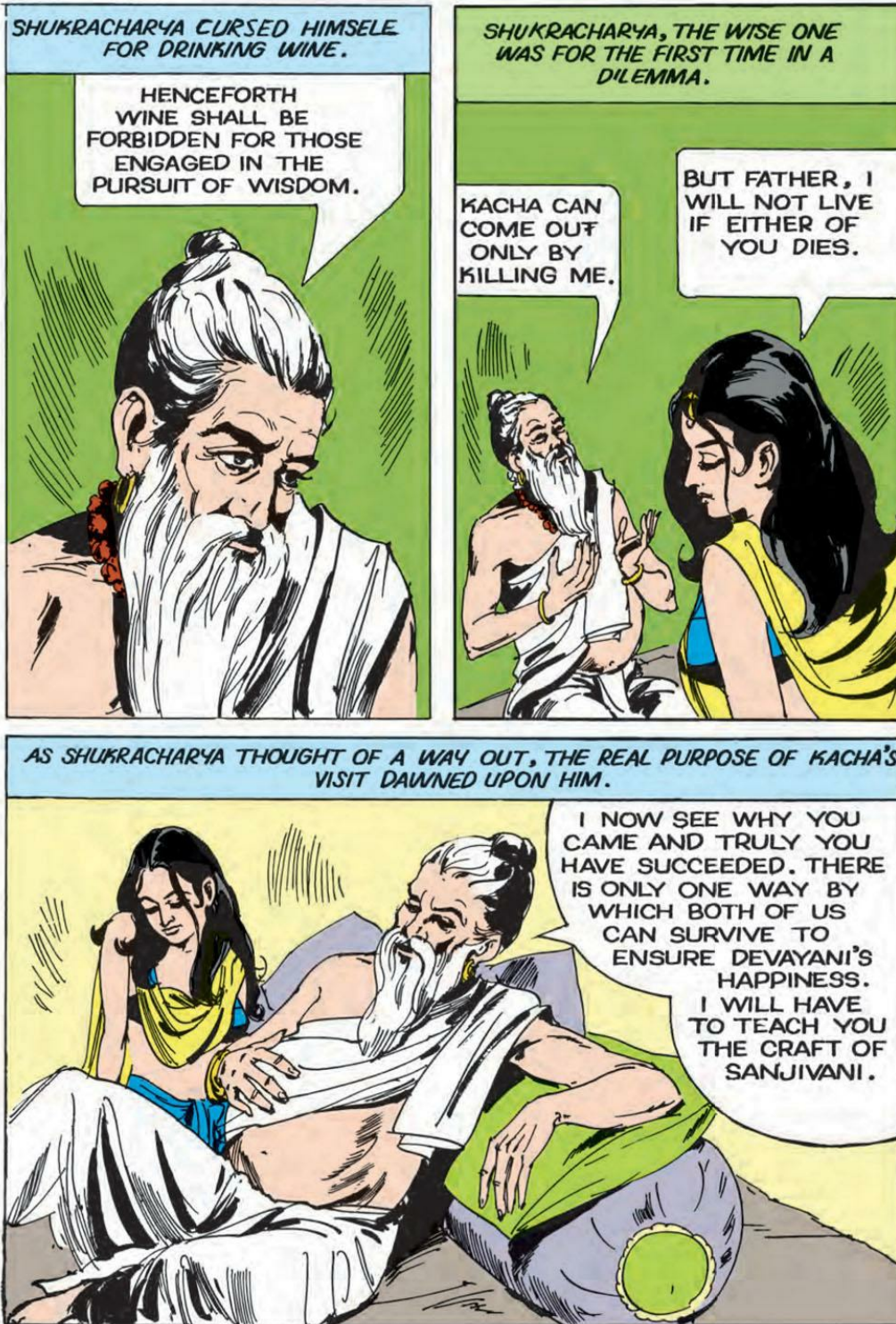


PLEASE, FATHER, I DON'T WANT TO EAT ANYTHING.

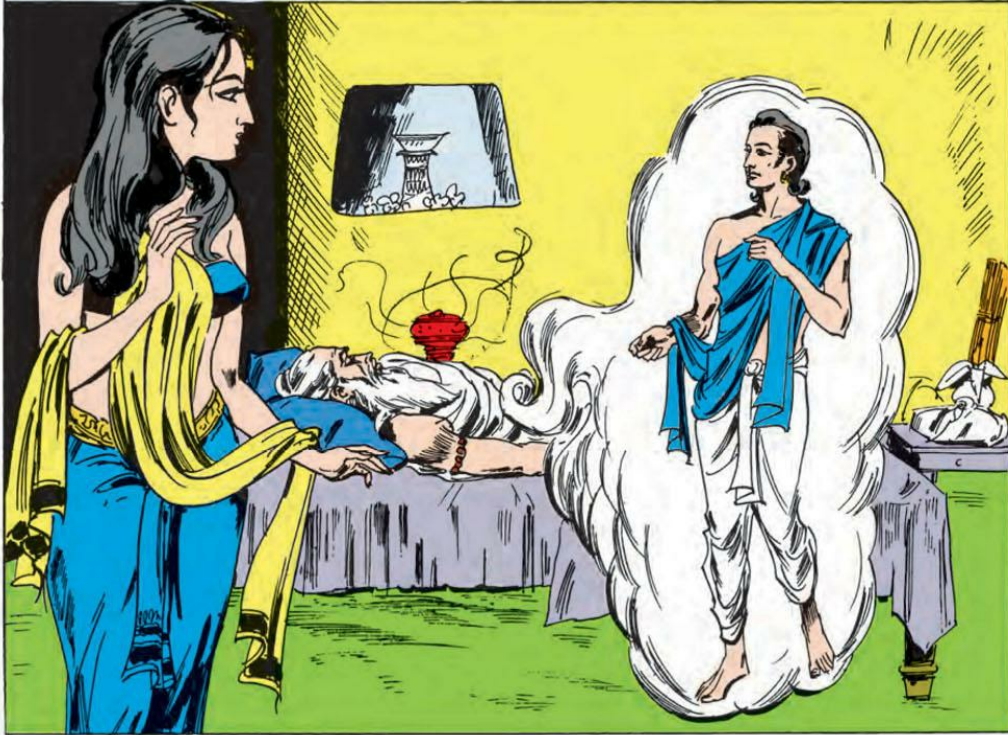


YET AGAIN SHUKRACHARYA USED HIS SECRET KNOWLEDGE AND
CALLED UPON KACHA TO COME BACK TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING.
KACHA CAME BACK TO LIFE ...

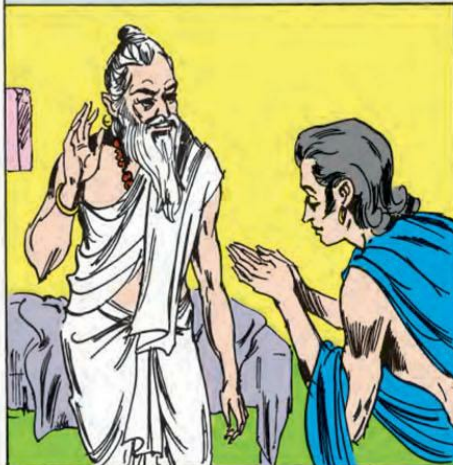




AND SO KACHA LEARNED THE CRAFT FOR WHICH HE HAD COME TO THE HOUSE OF SHUKRACHARYA IN THE CITY OF THE ASURAS AND EMERGED FROM SHUKRACHARYA'S MANGLED BODY.



HE IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT HIS GURU BACK TO LIFE.



SHUKRACHARYA COULD NOT HELP BEING PLEASED WITH HIS PUPIL'S WISDOM.

SHUKRACHARYA THEN WENT TO SEE THE ASURAS.





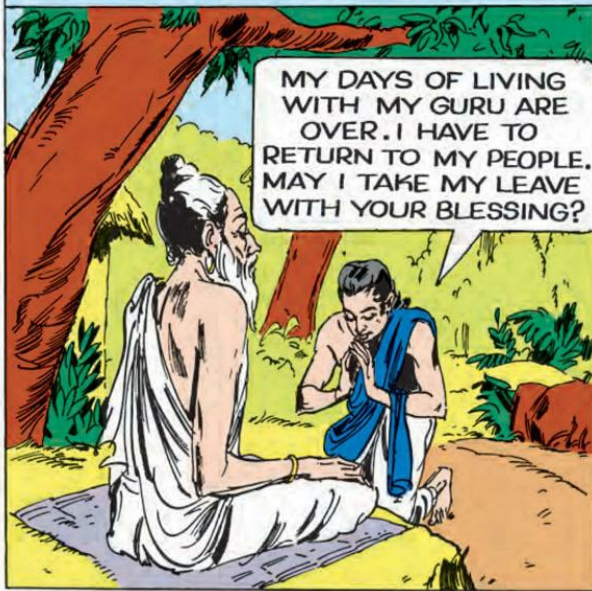
BUT KACHA WAS ONLY WAITING FOR THE FORMAL PERIOD OF HIS STUDIES TO COME TO AN END.

HOW WILL I BREAK THE NEWS TO DEVAYANI? SHE WILL BE HEART-BROKEN. BUT I MUST FULFIL MY DUTIES.



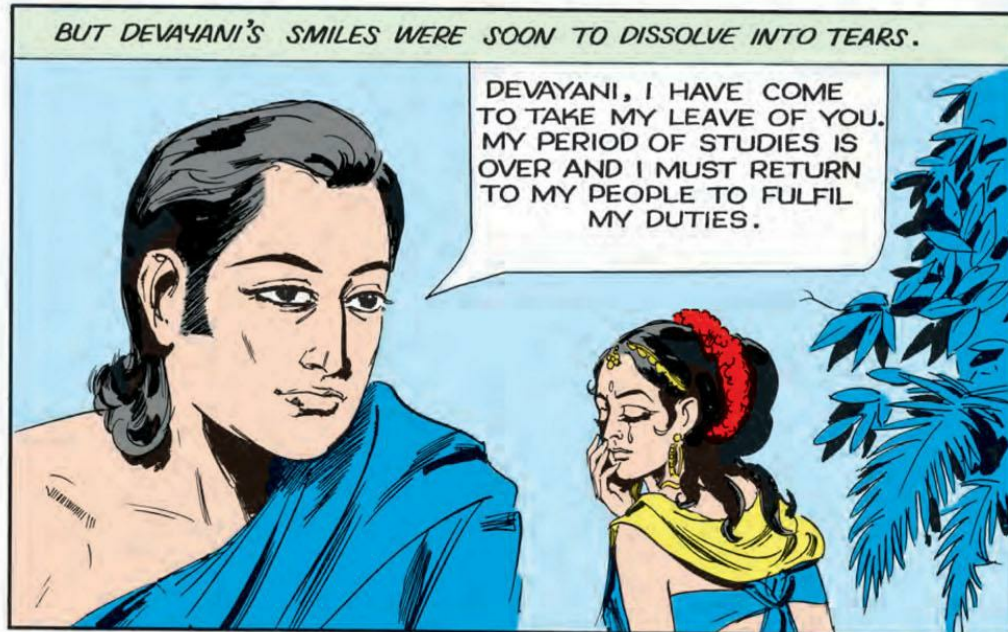
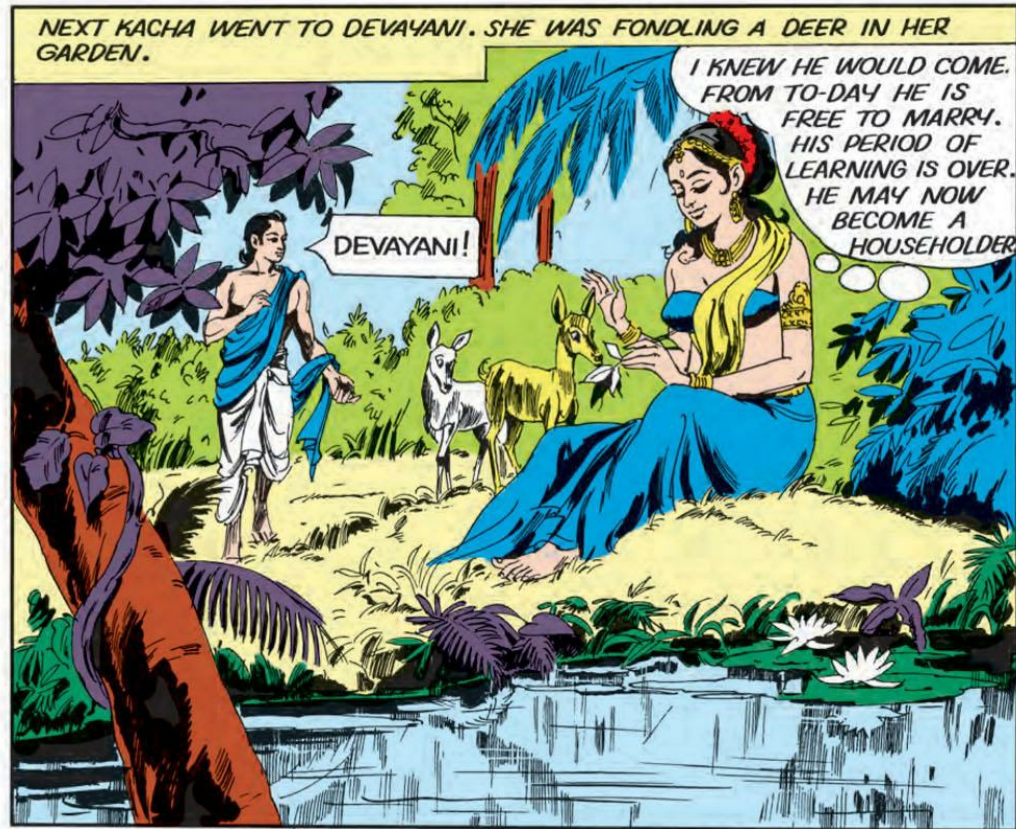
AT LAST THE DAY ARRIVED WHEN KACHA COULD LEAVE.

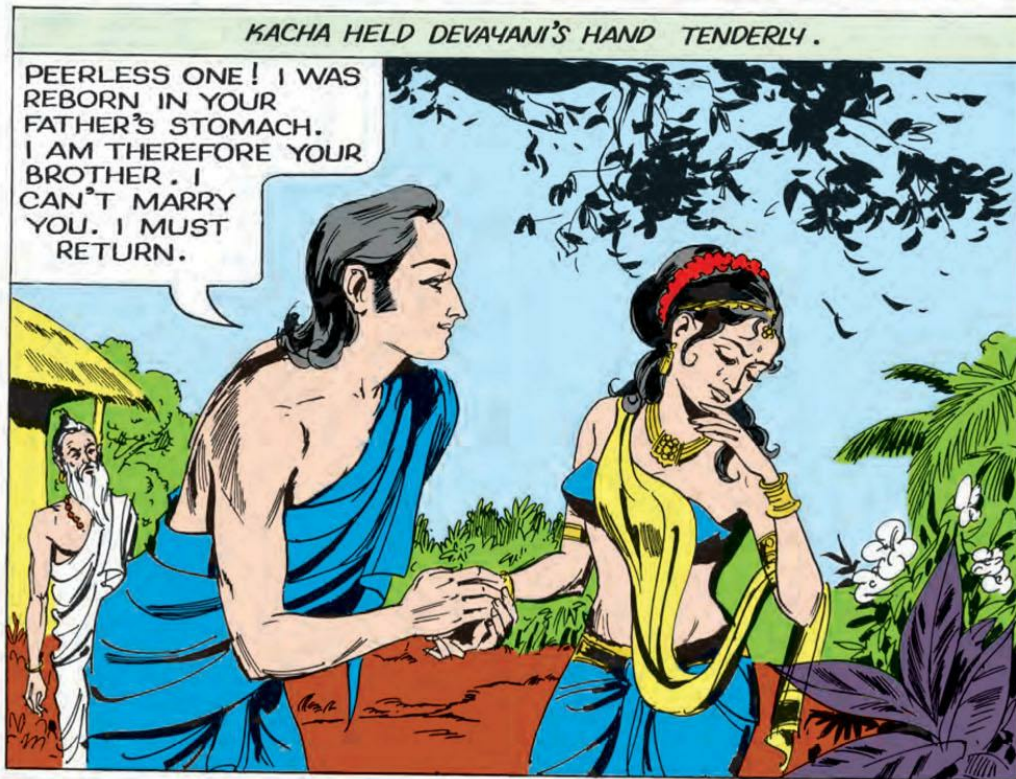
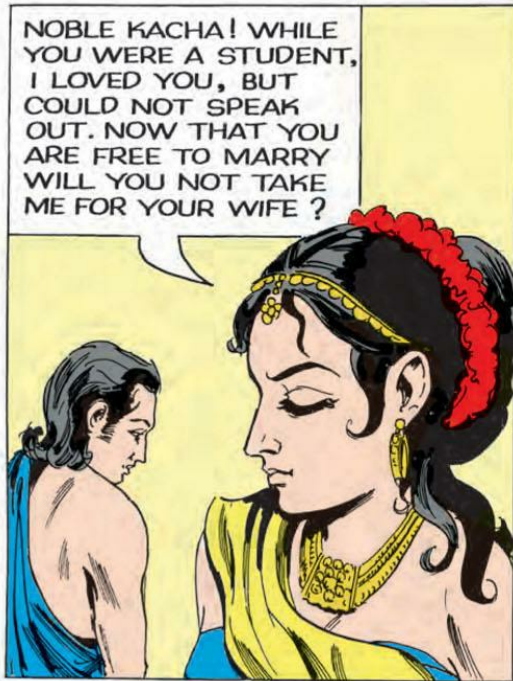
MY DAYS OF LIVING WITH MY GURU ARE OVER. I HAVE TO RETURN TO MY PEOPLE. MAY I TAKE MY LEAVE WITH YOUR BLESSING?



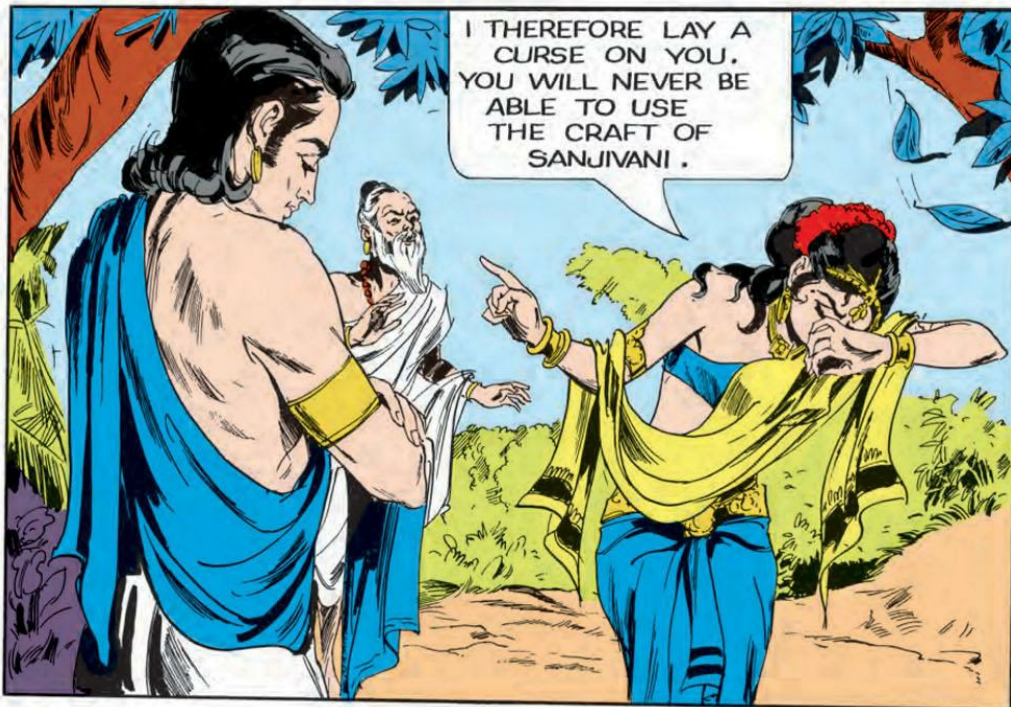
DOES DEVAYANI KNOW OF HIS DECISION? I WONDER!

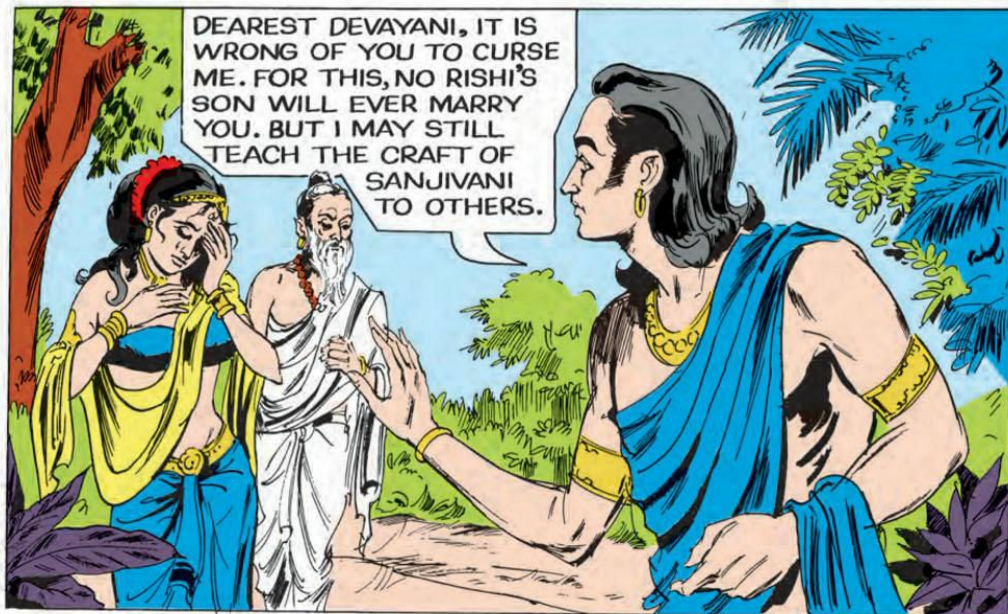




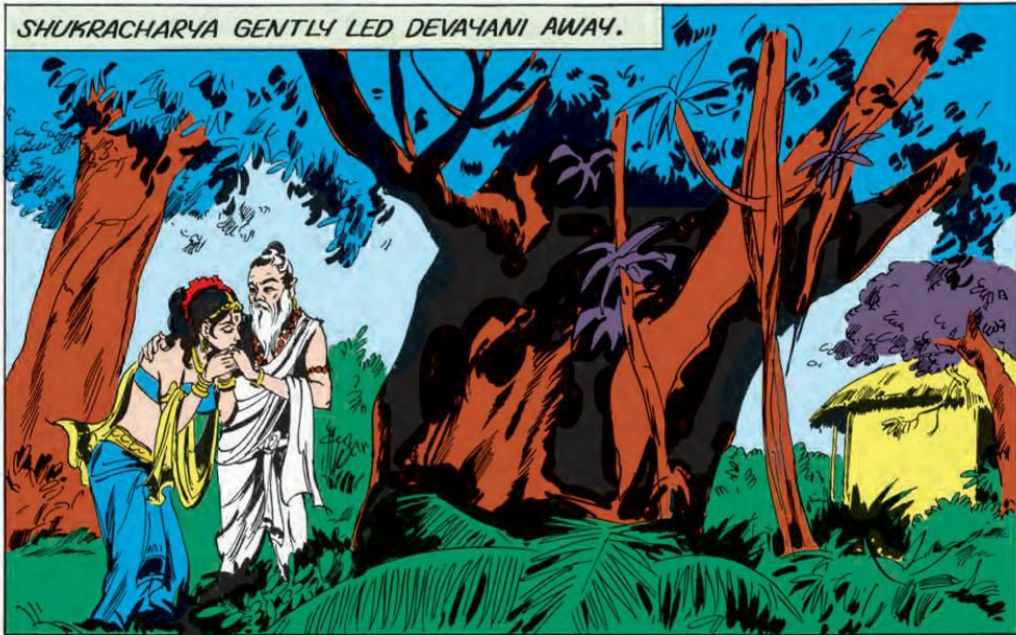


THE BROKEN-HEARTED DEVAYANI CRIED OUT IN HER GRIEF.





SHUKRACHARYA GENTLY LED DEVAYANI AWAY.



WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, DEVAYANI COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF KACHA.



AND SHE LIVED HAPPILY WITH HER FATHER AND HER PLAYMATES
IN THE CITY OF VRISHAPARVA, KING OF THE ASURAS.





INDRA AND SHACHI

THE LORD OF HEAVEN AND HIS DEVOTED WIFE





The route to your roots

INDRA AND SHACHI

Even gods can be prey to their inner torments. Lying and killing for the sake of peace and order, Indra felt he was unworthy of being king of heaven. A new king was installed on his throne! Now it was up to Indra's wife Shachi to ensure that his honour survived. Would the gods ever regain their respect for her beloved?

Script
Lakshmi Seshadri

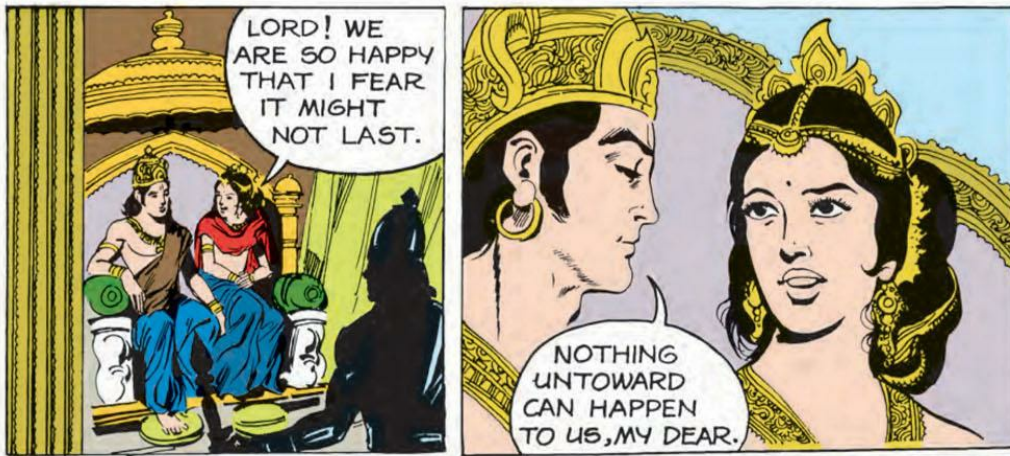
Illustrations
M.N.Nangare

Editor
Anant Pai

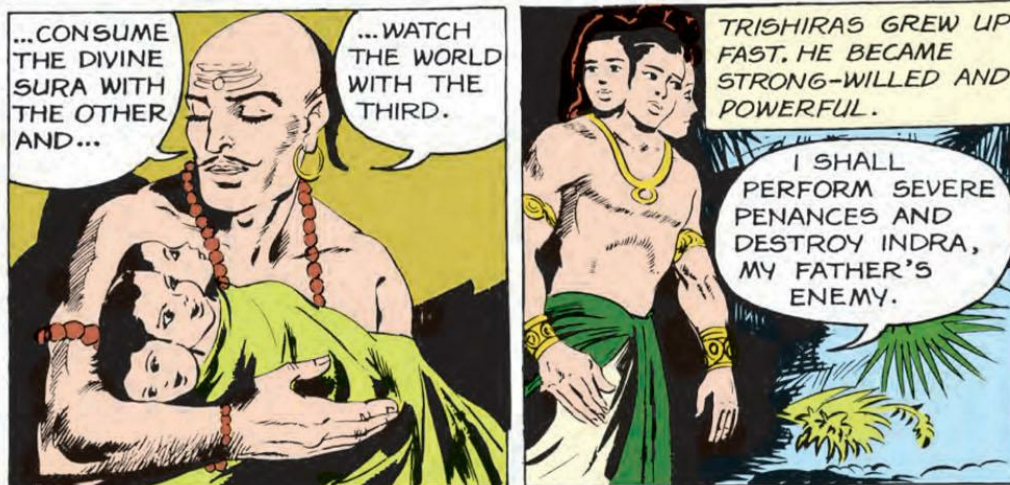
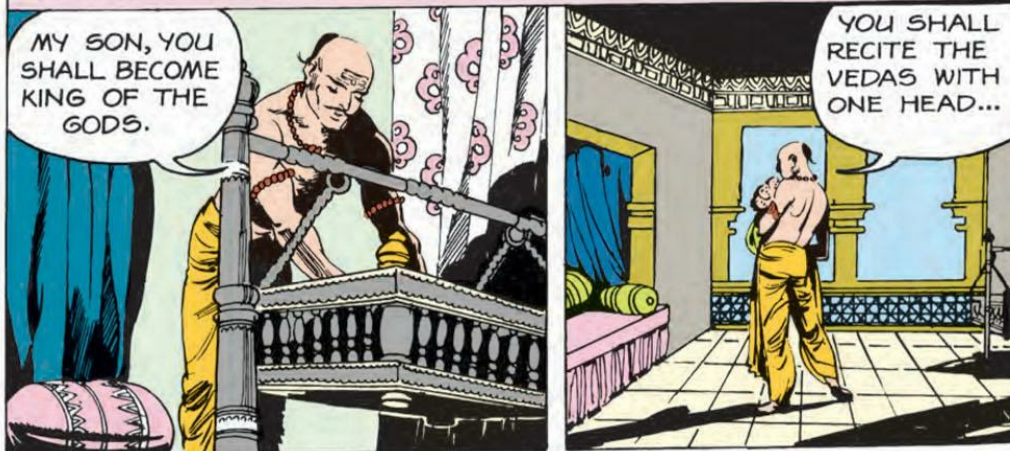
INDRA AND SHACHI



INDRA WAS THE KING OF THE DEVAS. HE LIVED WITH HIS
QUEEN, SHACHI IN HIS CELESTIAL CITY, AMARAVATI.



BUT THERE WAS CAUSE FOR THEM TO FEAR. AT THAT VERY MOMENT A SON WAS BORN TO TVASHTA, INDRA'S ENEMY.



INDRA HEARD OF TRISHIRAS AND OF HIS INTENSE PENANCE TO DESTROY HIM. HE SENT FOR THE APSARAS, THE CELESTIAL MAIDENS...



THE APSARAS PREPARED THEMSELVES.

WE WILL TEMPT HIM WITH THESE FRUITS AND FLOWERS.



THEIR CHARMS WERE HEAVENLY. BUT TRISHIRAS WAS UNMOVED.



THE APSARAS RETURNED TO INDRA.



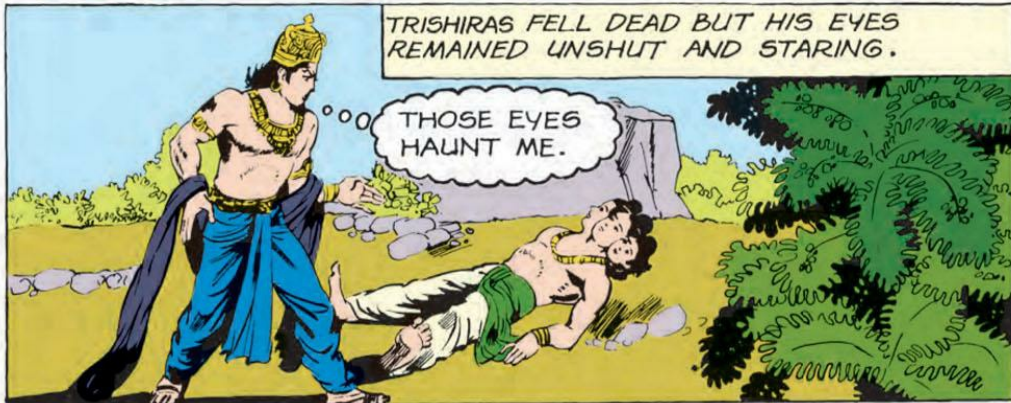
SHACHI WAS WORRIED.



INDRA THREW HIS THUNDERBOLT AT TRISHIRAS WHILE HE WAS PRAYING.



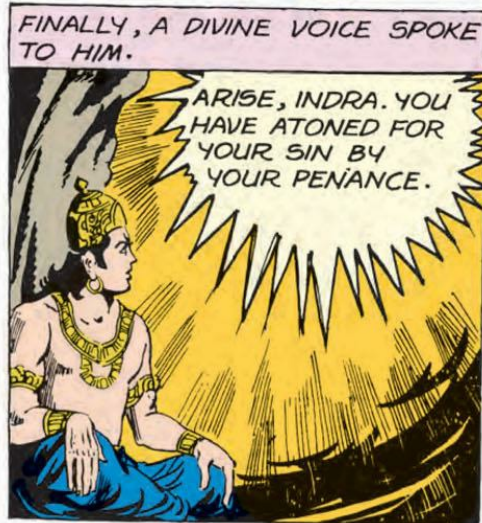
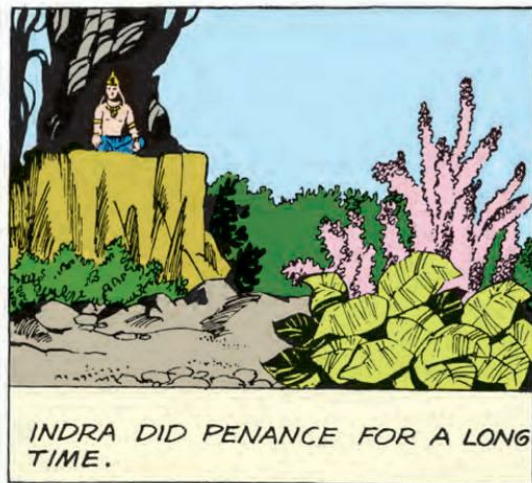
TRISHIRAS FELL DEAD BUT HIS EYES REMAINED UNSHUT AND STARING.





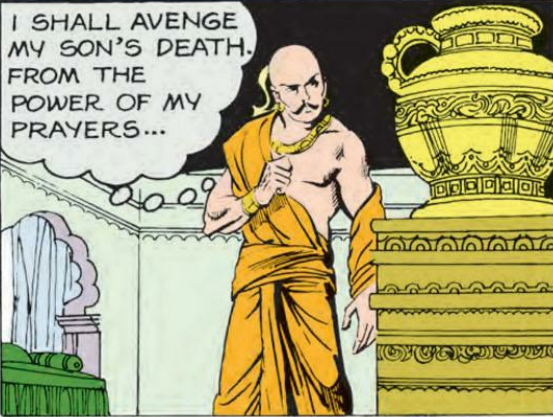
AT THAT MOMENT A WOODCUTTER HAPPENED TO PASS BY.



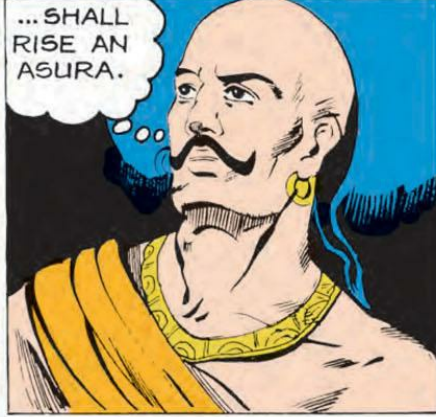


MEANWHILE TVASHTA HEARD OF TRISHIRAS' DEATH. HE WAS DEEPLY GRIEVED AND VERY ANGRY.

I SHALL AVENGE
MY SON'S DEATH.
FROM THE
POWER OF MY
PRAYERS...



...SHALL
RISE AN
ASURA.



TVASHTA PERFORMED A SACRIFICE AND CREATED AN ASURA.



WHEN INDRA HEARD OF VRITRA, HE PREPARED TO MEET THE CHALLENGE.



THERE WAS A TERRIBLE BATTLE IN WHICH VRITRA CAUGHT INDRA BETWEEN HIS TEETH.



THE JIRIMBHAKA ASTRA FOUND ITS MARK.



VRITRA YAWNED...



INDRA MADE HIMSELF TINY AND ESCAPED.

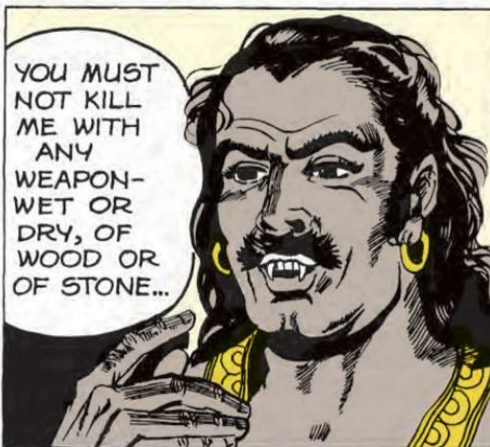


* AN ARROW WHICH MAKES A MAN YAWN

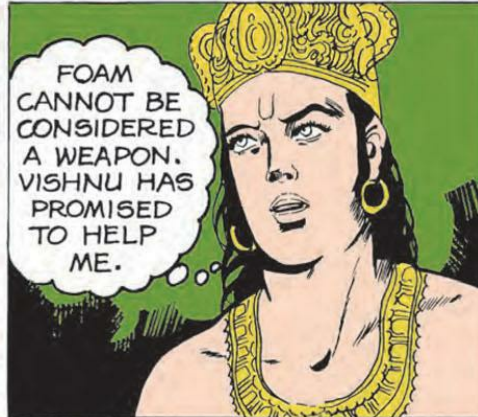
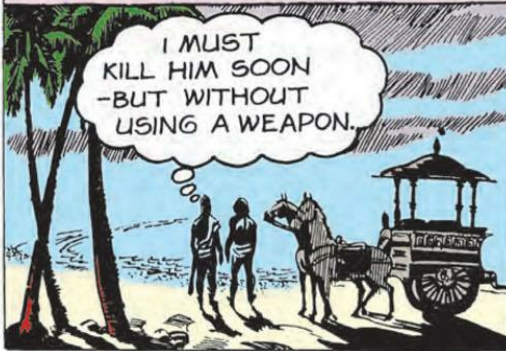
HE AND HIS SUBJECTS WENT TO VISHNU FOR ADVICE.



INDRA MADE PEACE WITH VRITRA. BUT VRITRA WAS WARY.



ONE EVENING THEY WERE ON THE SEA-SHORE.



VISHNU ENTERED THE FOAM AND WHEN INDRA THREW IT AT VRITRA, HE WAS KILLED IMMEDIATELY BY THE POWER OF VISHNU WITHIN IT.



BUT AS INDRA HAD BETRAYED VRITRA HE WAS ASHAMED TO FACE THE WORLD.



INDRA RAN AWAY. ALL WAS DARKNESS AND CHAOS, ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN.



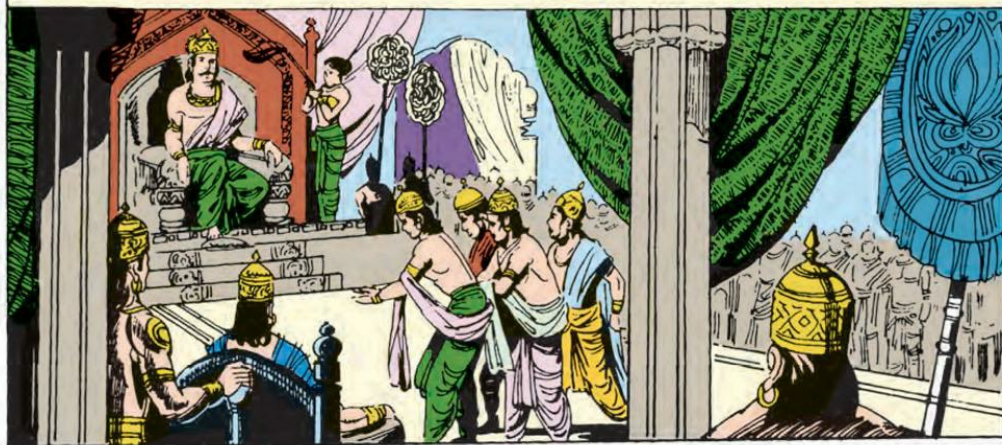
THE DEVAS MET IN A COUNCIL.



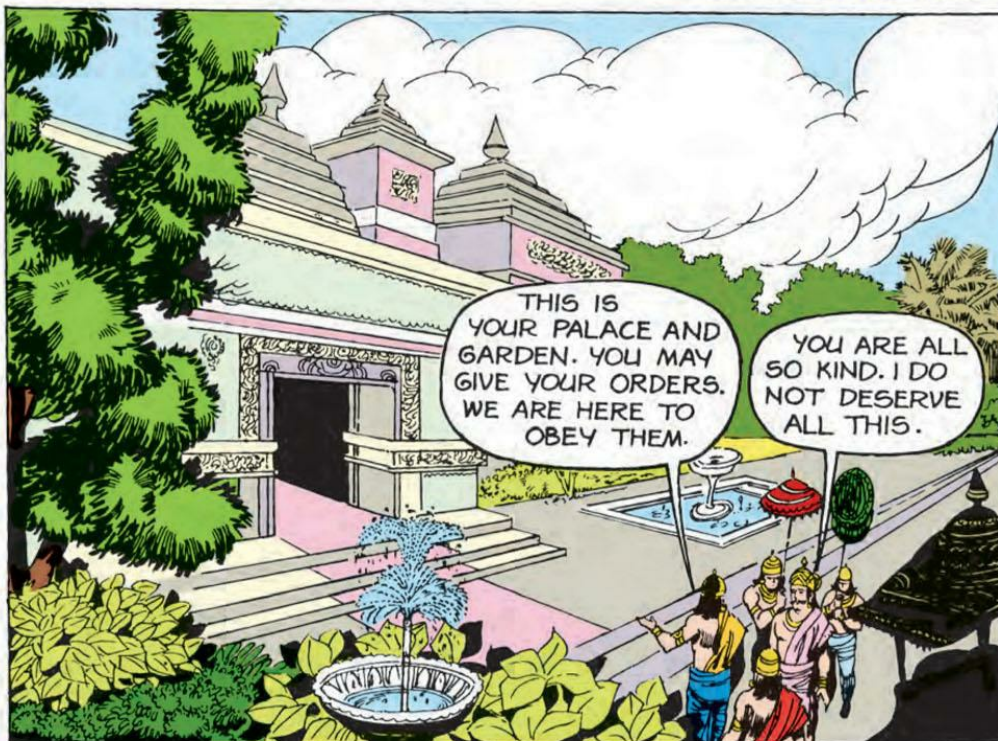
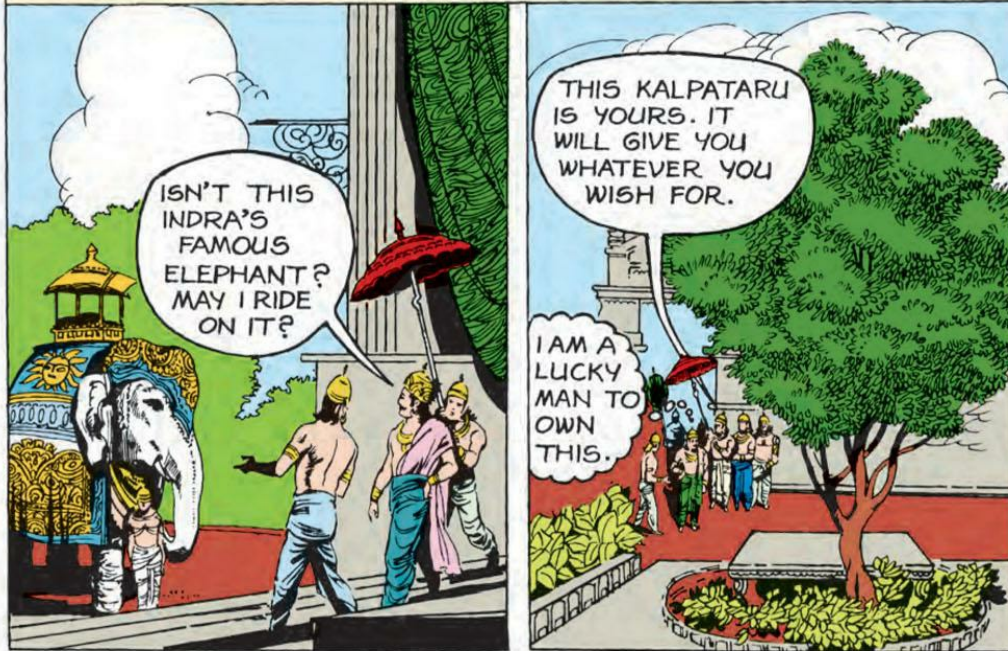
THE DEVAS WENT TO KING NAHUSHA'S COURT.



THE DEVAS MADE NAHUSHA THEIR KING.



NAHUSHA ENJOYED ALL THE CELESTIAL PLEASURES.



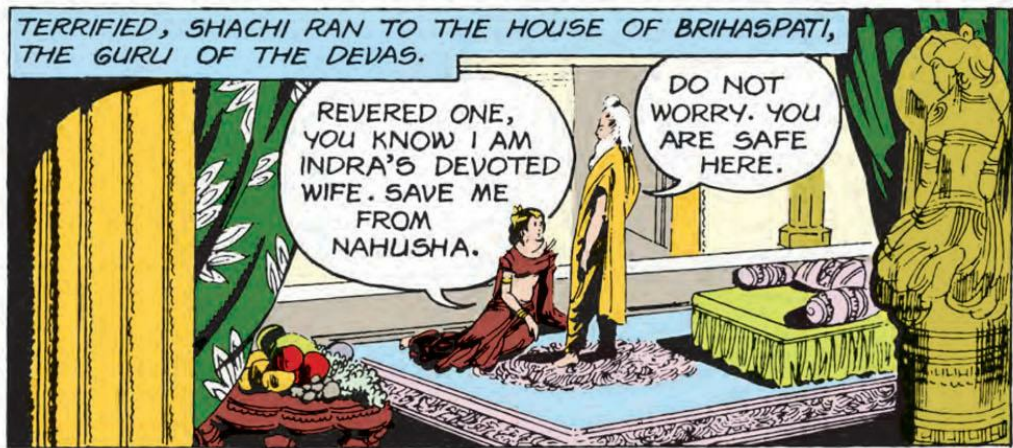
BUT ALAS! NAHUSHA SOON BECAME CONCEITED AND ARROGANT.



THE DEVAS WERE VERY UNHAPPY.



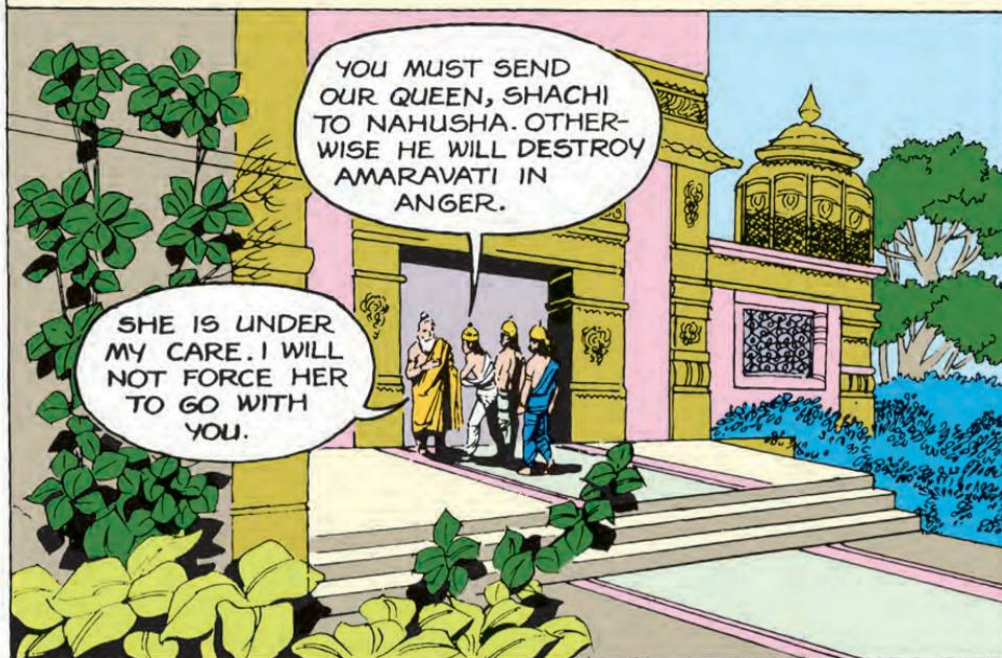
* THE GODS OF WIND.

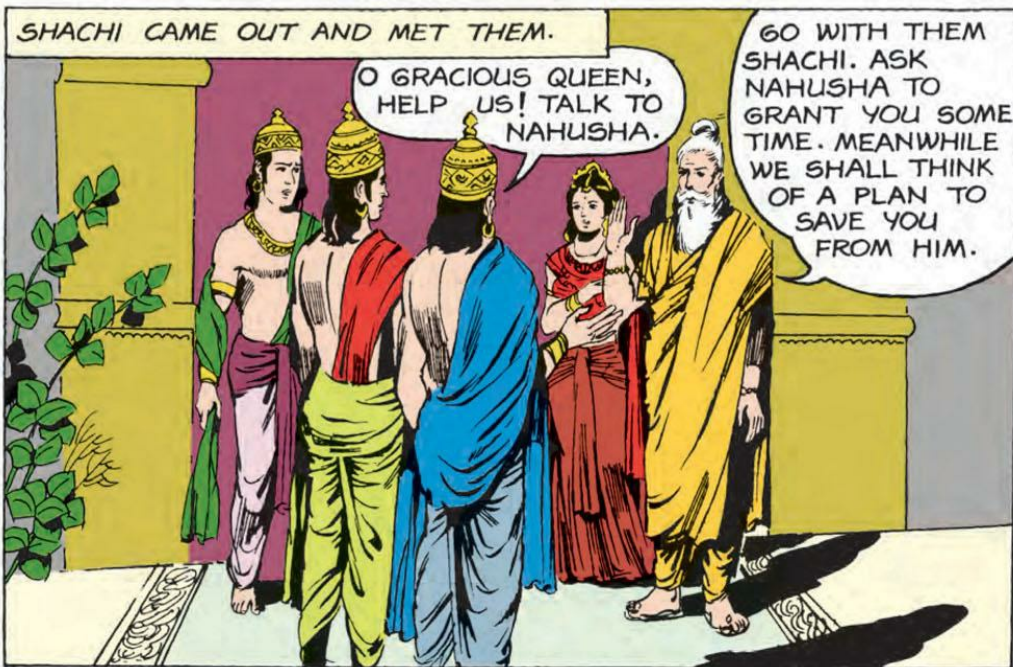


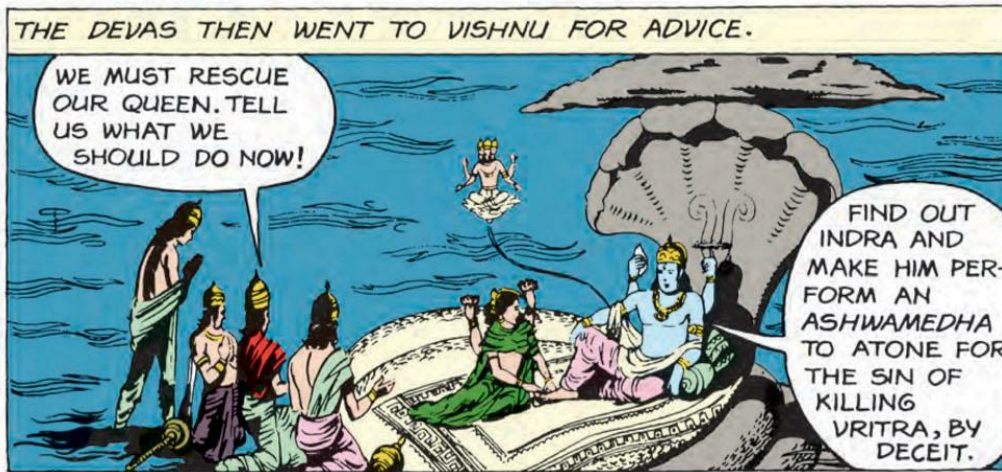
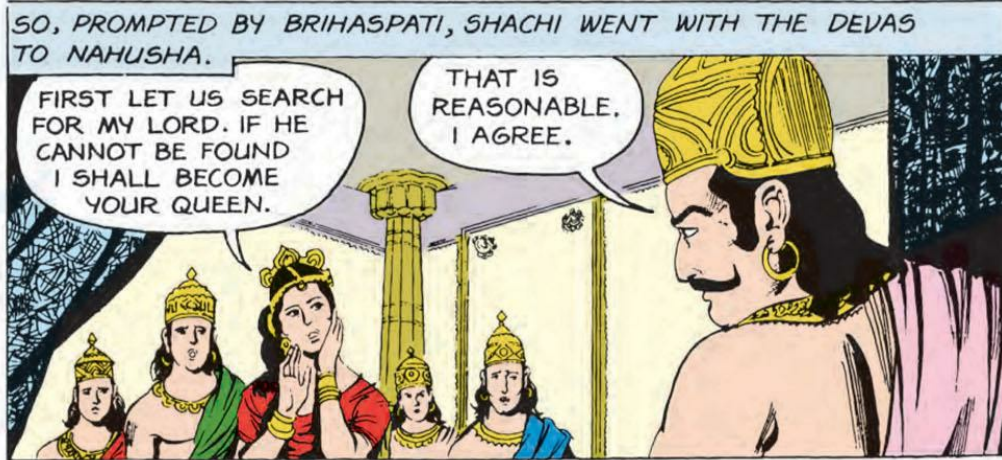
NAHUSHA WAS VERY ANGRY WHEN HE HEARD THAT SHACHI WAS IN BRIHASPATI'S HOUSE.



THE DEVAS TREMBLED BEFORE NAHUSHA'S FURY. THEY RAN TO BRIHASPATI'S HOUSE.







AT LAST THEY FOUND INDRA.

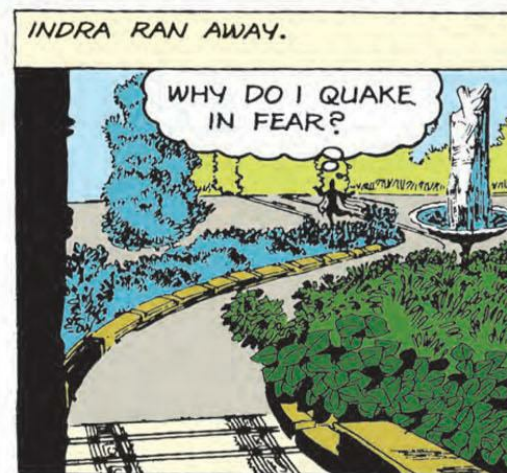
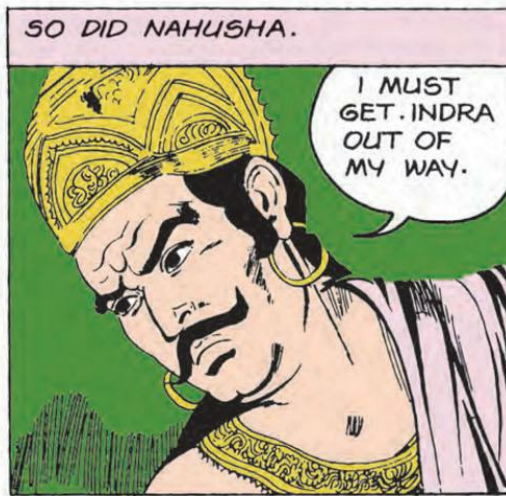
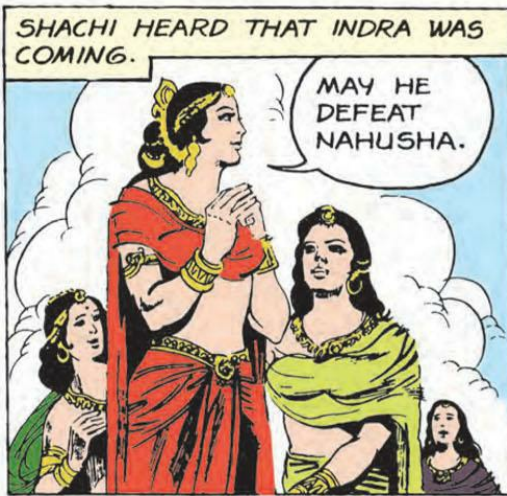


INDRA PERFORMED THE ASHWAMEDHA...



... AND THEN SET OUT TO CHALLENGE NAHUSHA.

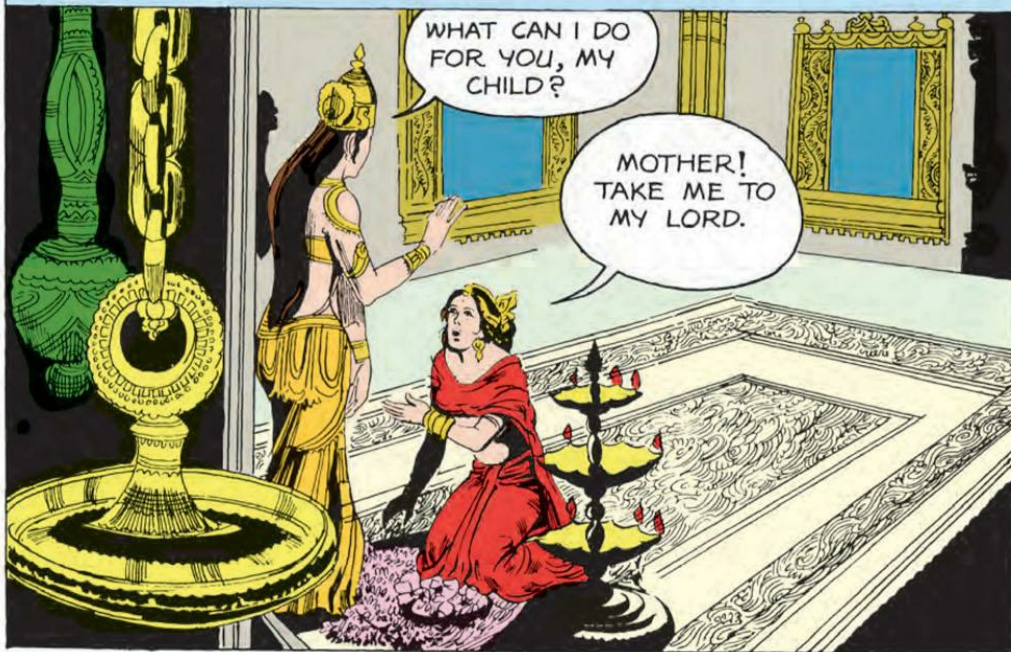




SHACHI PRAYED TO UPASHRUTI, A GODDESS OF THE NIGHT.

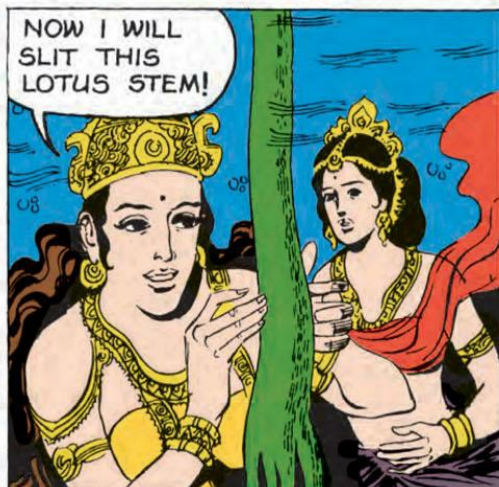
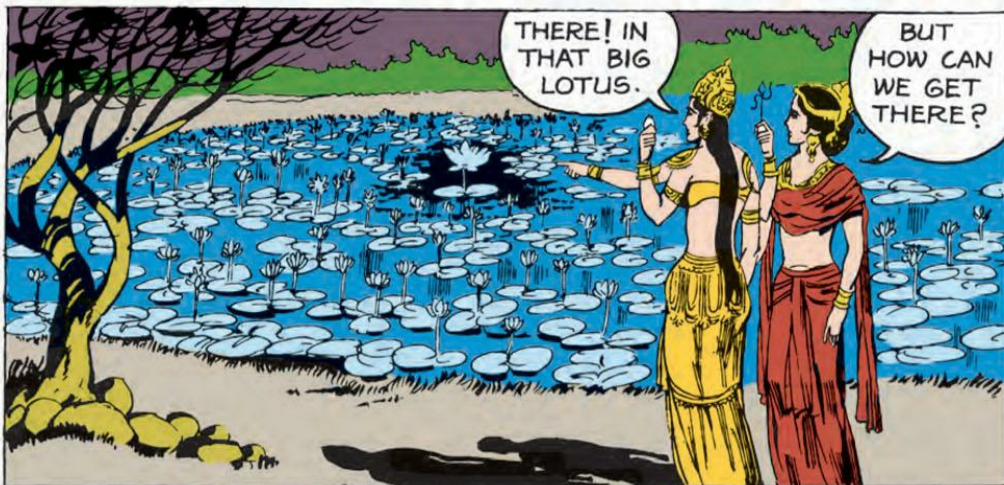
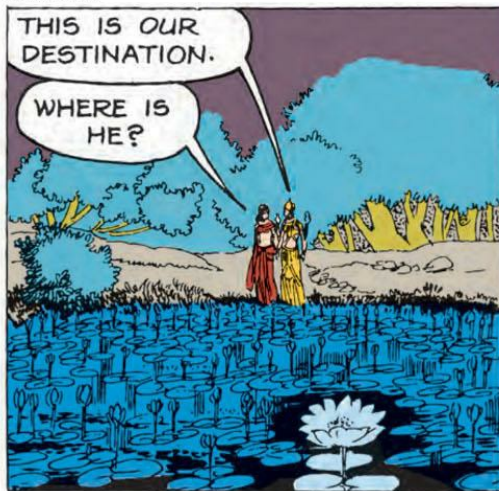
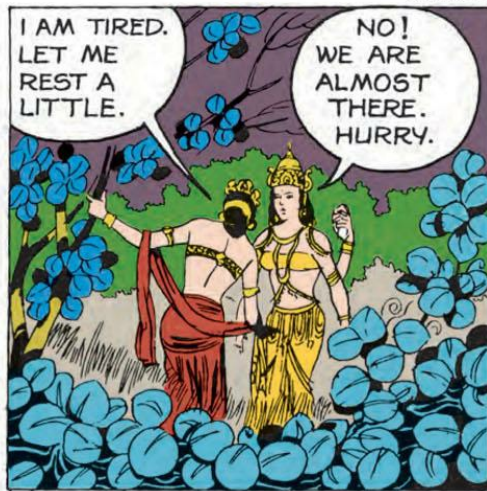


UPASHRUTI APPEARED BEFORE SHACHI.



UPASHRUTI LED SHACHI INTO THE DARK NIGHT.



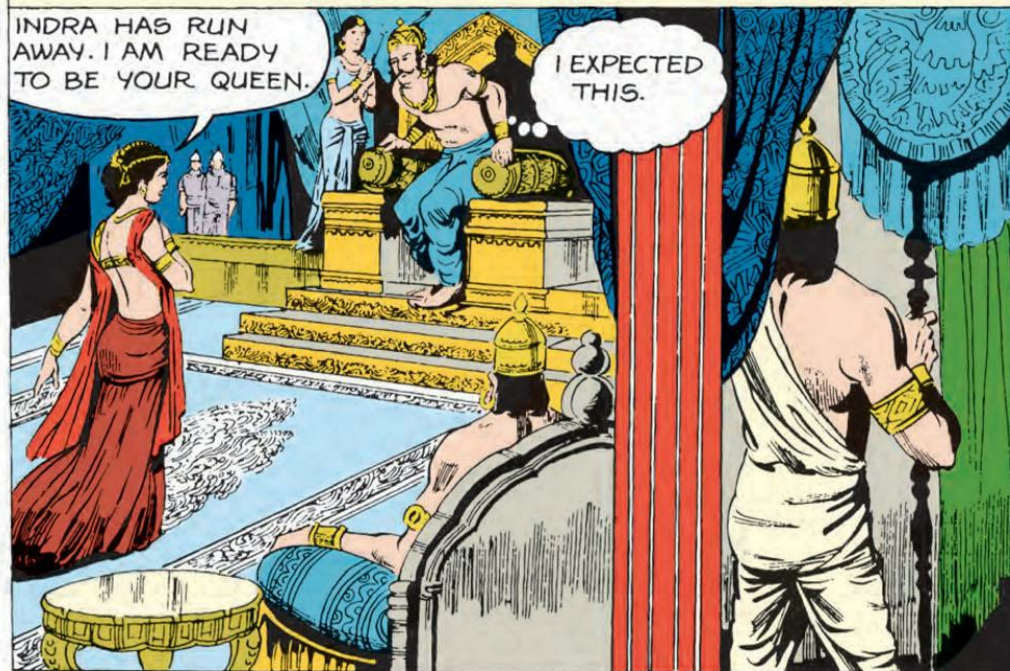


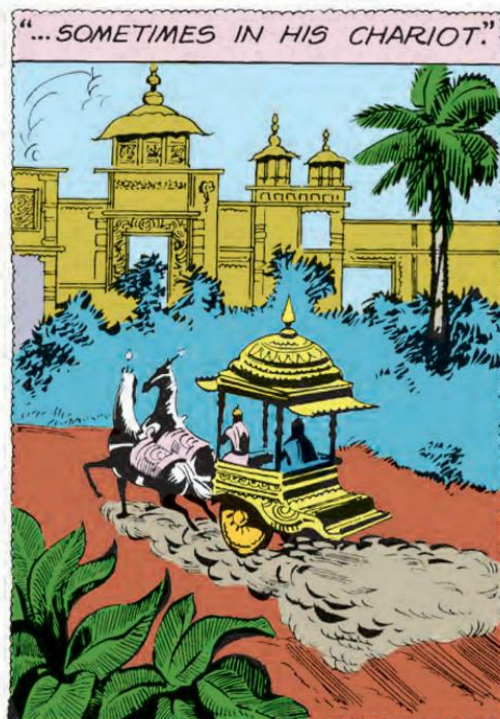
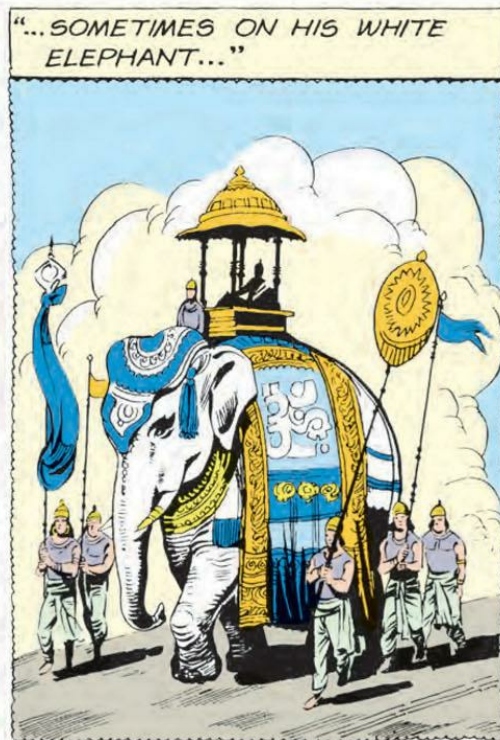


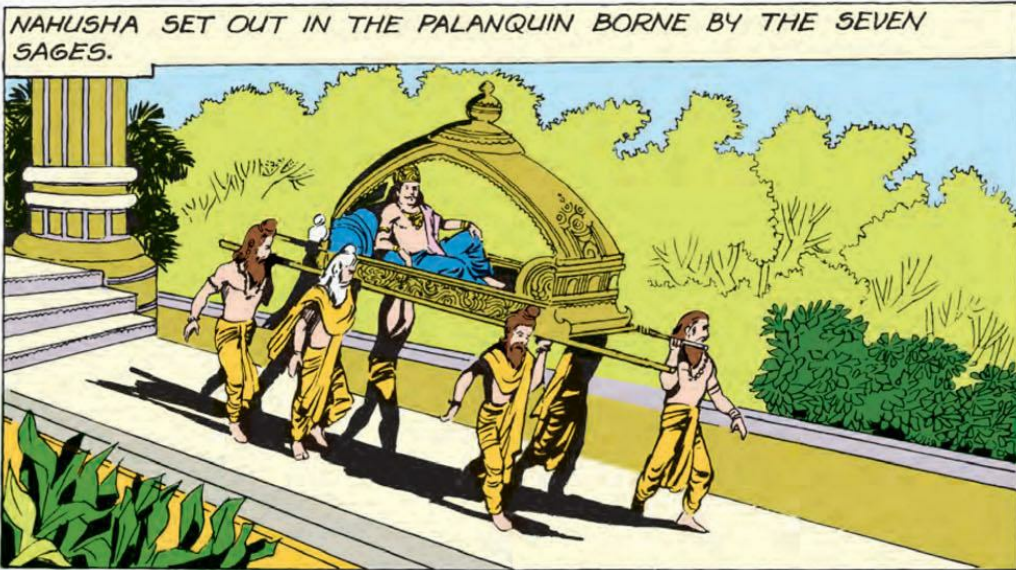
INDRA TOLD HER WHAT SHE SHOULD DO.



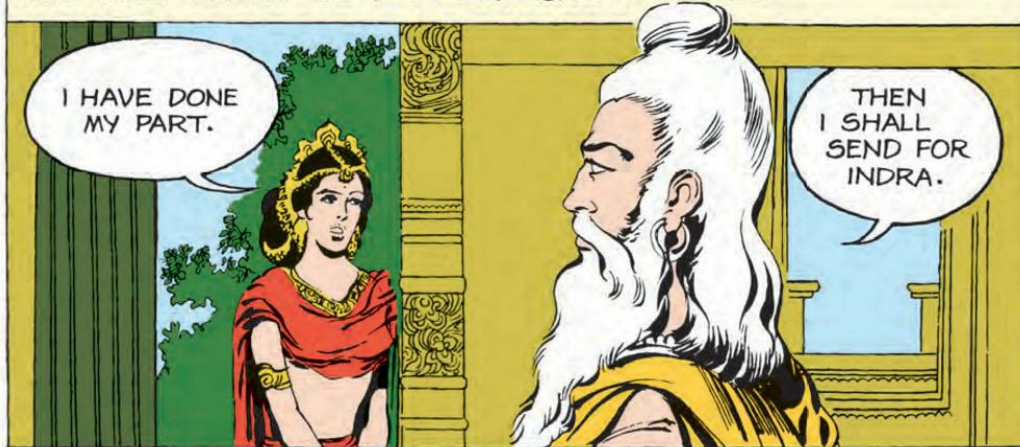
THE NEXT MORNING SHACHI WENT TO NAHUSHA.







MEANWHILE SHACHI WENT TO BRIHASPATI'S HOUSE.



BRIHASPATI INVOKED AGNI IN A SACRIFICE.

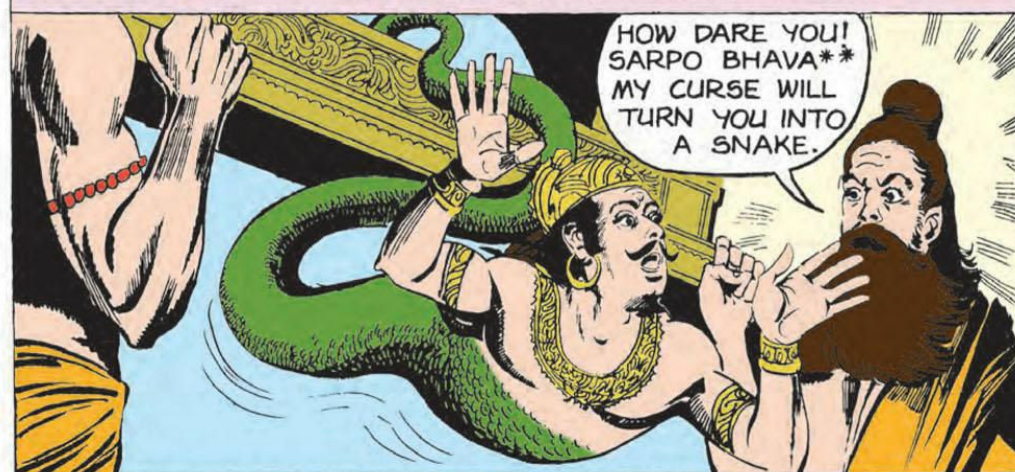


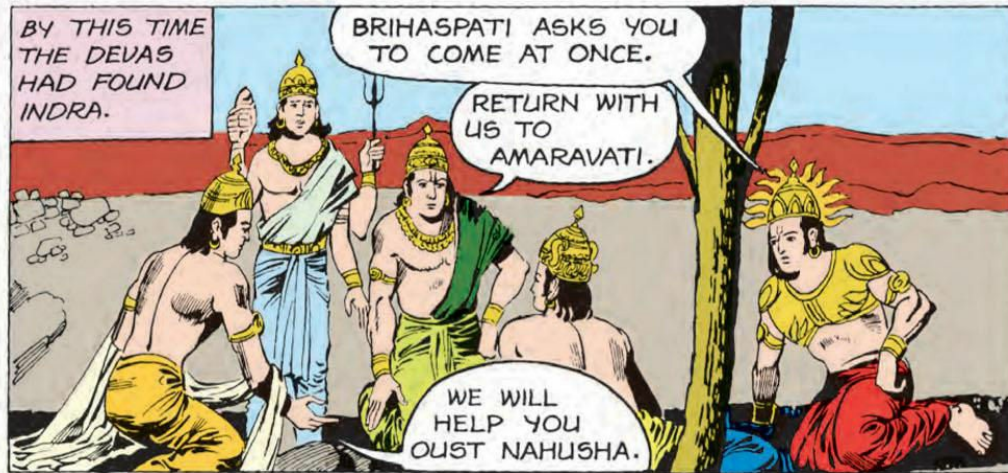
AGNI CALLED THE DEVAS.





WHEN NAHUSHA KICKED HIM, AGASTYA BECAME ANGRY.





JUST THEN AGASTYA CAME HURRYING UP.





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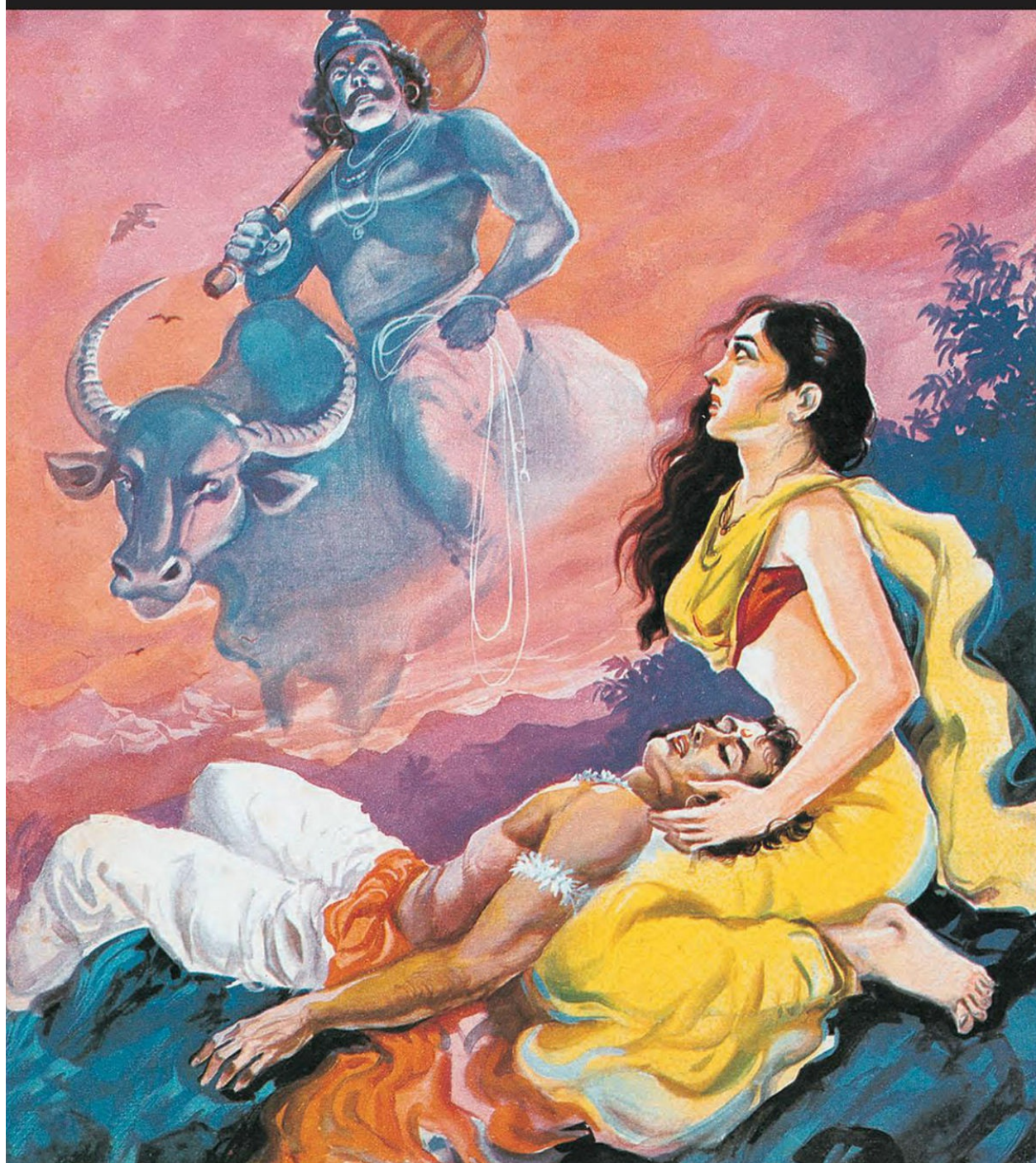
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SAVITRI

THE PERFECT WIFE





The route to your roots

SAVITRI

Even the merciless Lord Yama is charmed by Savitri. This gentle, beautiful princess is admired by gods and kings, the rich and the poor, the young and the old. But when the shadow of death hangs over her husband she is filled with courage spurred by her selfless love for him. She strives for a miracle – with amazing success!

Script
Anant Pai

Illustrations
Ram Waerker

Editor
Anant Pai

Cover illustration by: Pratap Mulick

SAVITRI



HE HAD MANY WIVES - AS WAS THE CUSTOM IN THOSE DAYS.
THE PALACE ECHOED WITH THEIR HAPPY VOICES.



BUT ASUAPATI WAS
UNHAPPY. HE HAD
NO CHILDREN.



WHY
ARE YOU
SAD,
YOUR
MAJESTY?

I HAVE
WORSHIPPED
THE GODS
BUT STILL
HAVE NO
CHILD.

YOUR
MAJESTY!
I HAVE
HEARD
GOD SAVITR
FULFILLS
MANY
WISHES!

SAVITR?
THEN I
SHALL GO
TO HIS
TEMPLE.



SOON A ROYAL PROCESSION WOUND ITS WAY TO THE SAVITR TEMPLE...



FROM THIS
HOLY FIRE THE
GOD WILL
ACCEPT YOUR
OFFERING!

WILL HE
FULFIL MY
HEART'S
DESIRE?

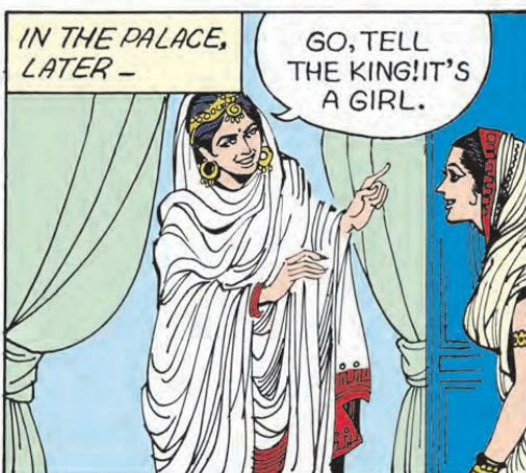


THEN THE TEMPLE WAS BATHED
IN LIGHT AND THE GOD
APPEARED BEFORE THE KING.

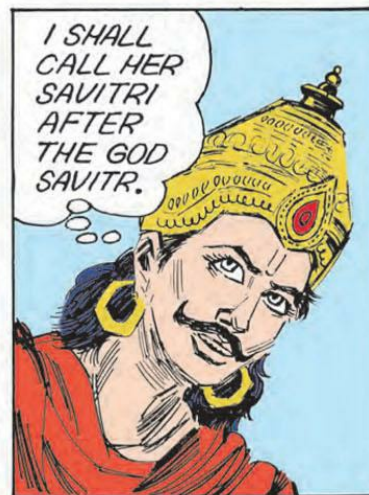
YOU ARE PURE
IN HEART!
YOUR WISH
WILL BE
FULFILLED!



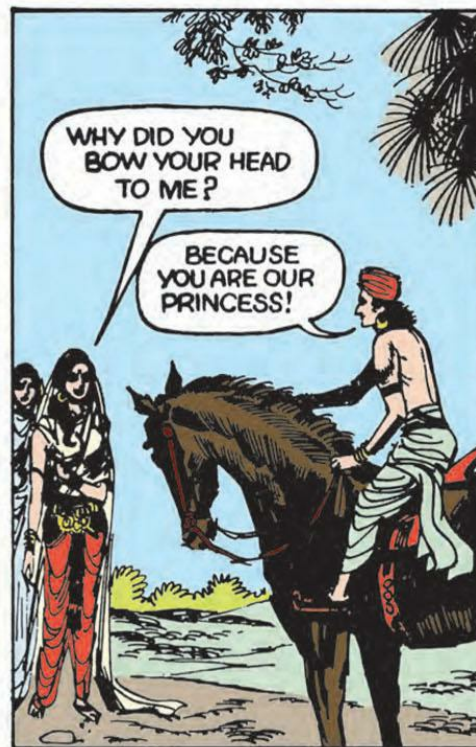
THE MONTHS PASSED, ON THE DAY OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH, THE PEOPLE GATHERED OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATES WAITING FOR THE NEWS.

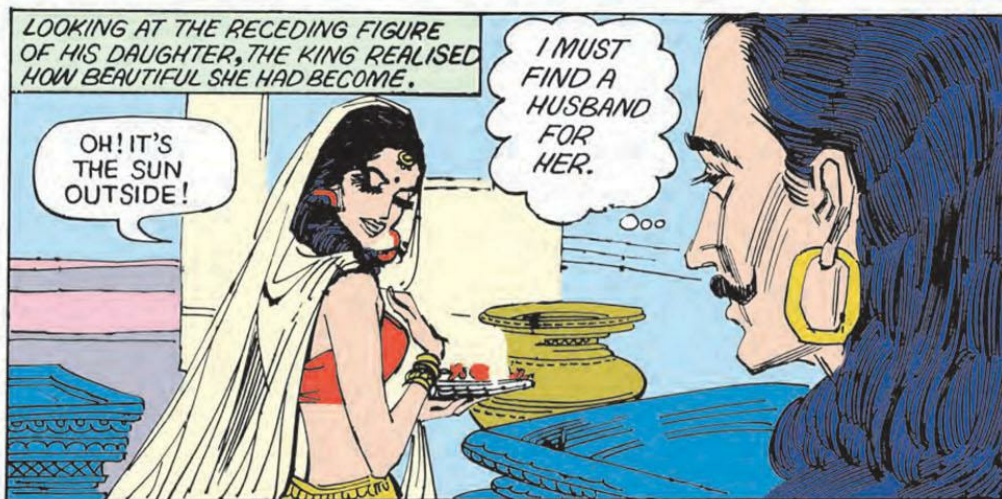
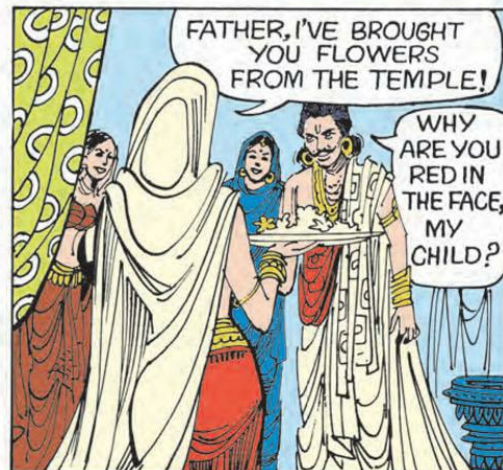
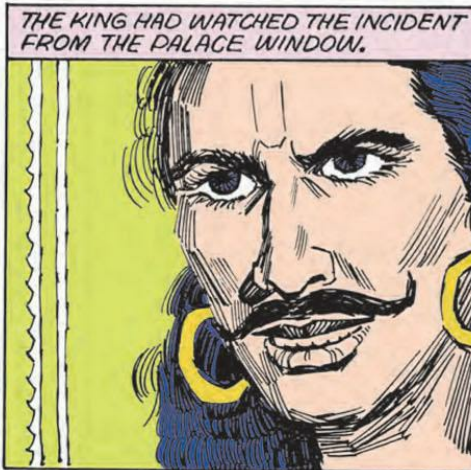


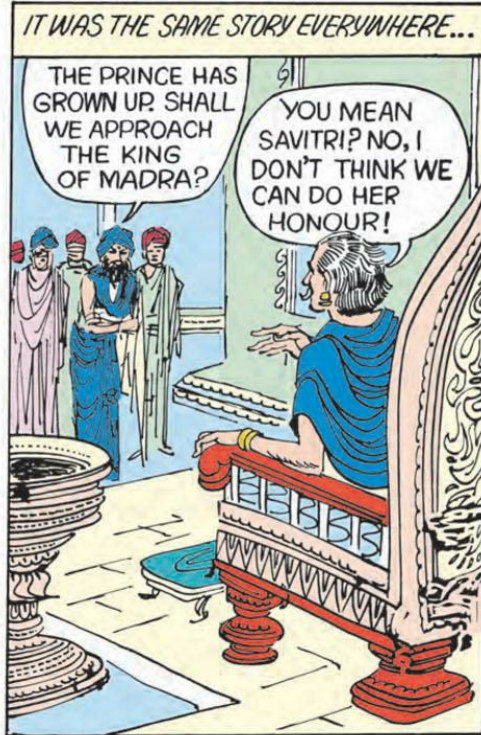
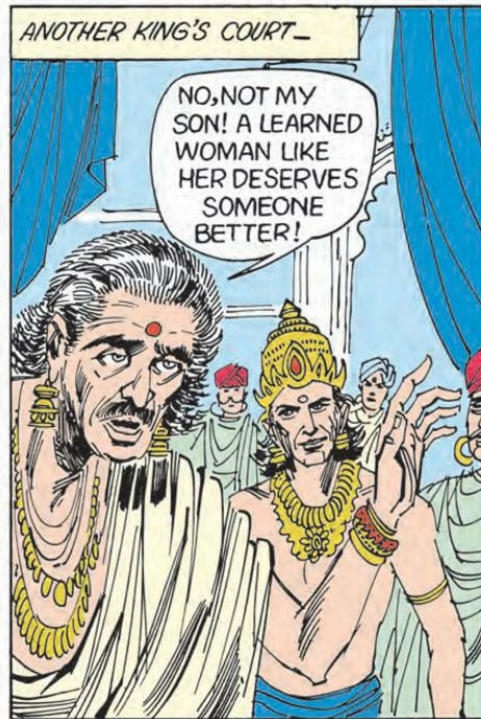
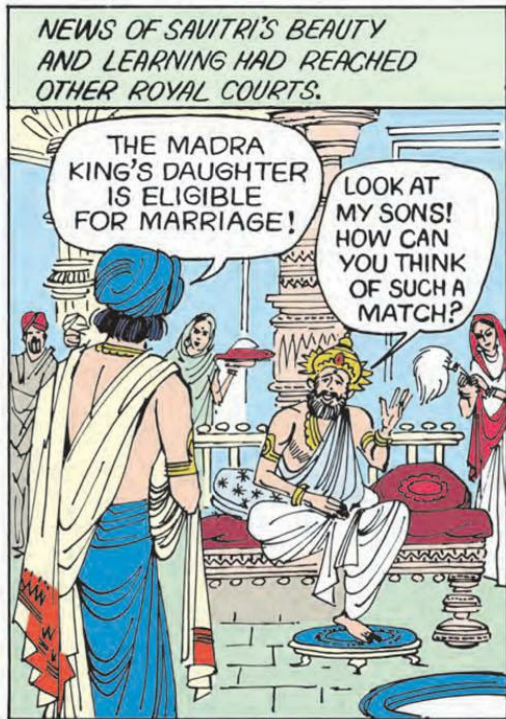
THE WHOLE KINGDOM REJOICED. THE KING GAVE AWAY CLOTHES AND JEWELS.

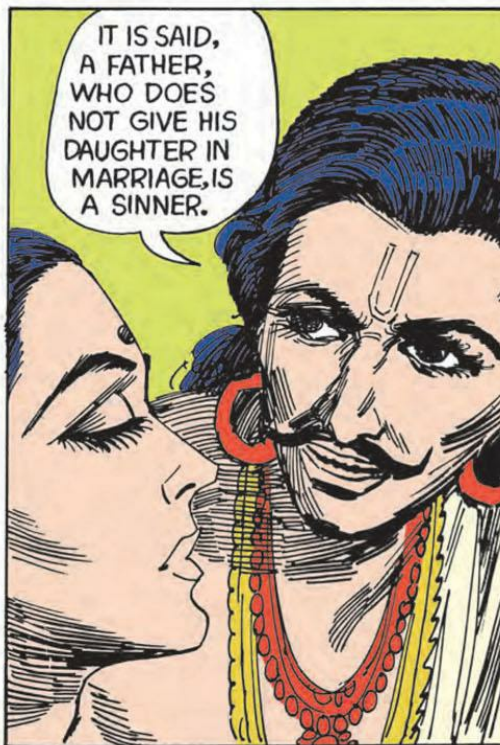




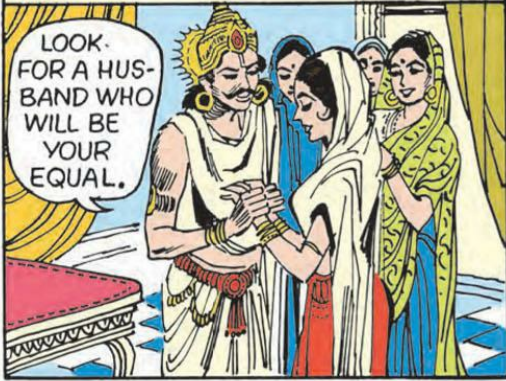








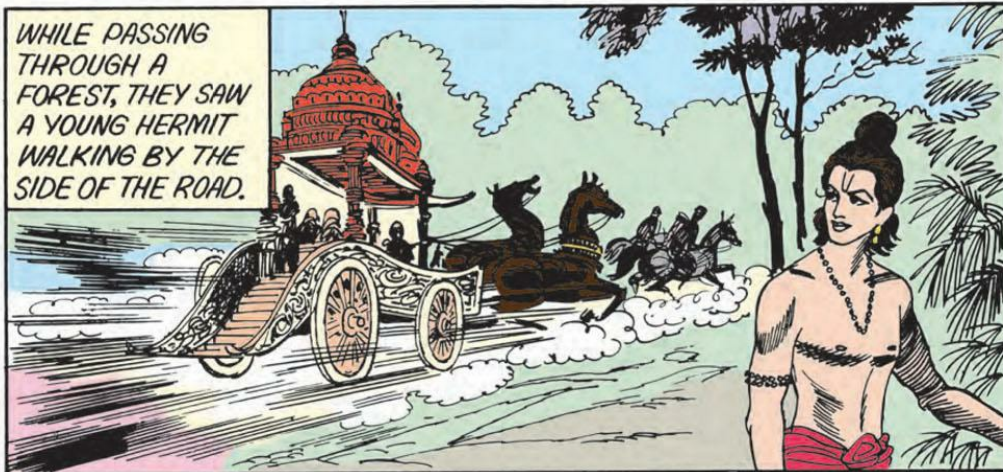
IT WAS ARRANGED THAT SAVITRI WOULD GO ON A TRIP THROUGH MANY KINGDOMS. THE MINISTER WOULD ACCOMPANY HER.



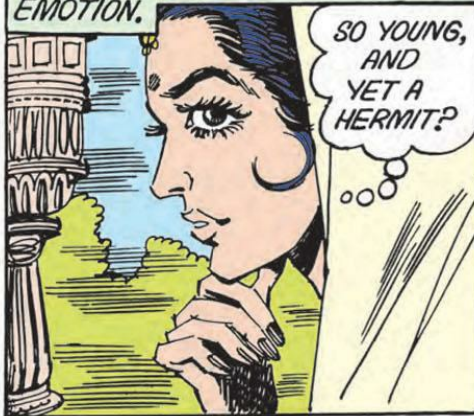
SAVITRI WAS THRILLED WITH THE JOURNEY—SHE WOULD VISIT SO MANY HOLY PLACES.



WHILE PASSING THROUGH A FOREST, THEY SAW A YOUNG HERMIT WALKING BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

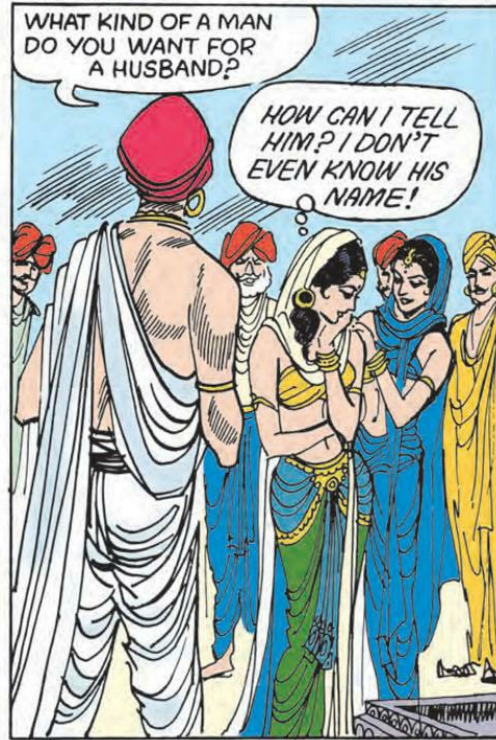
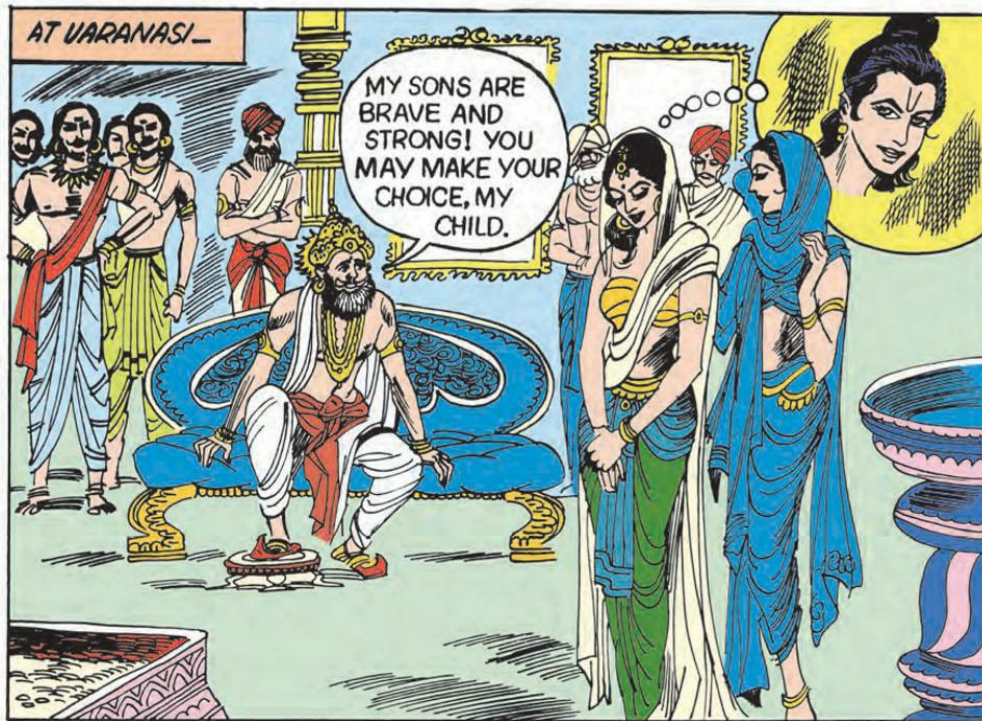


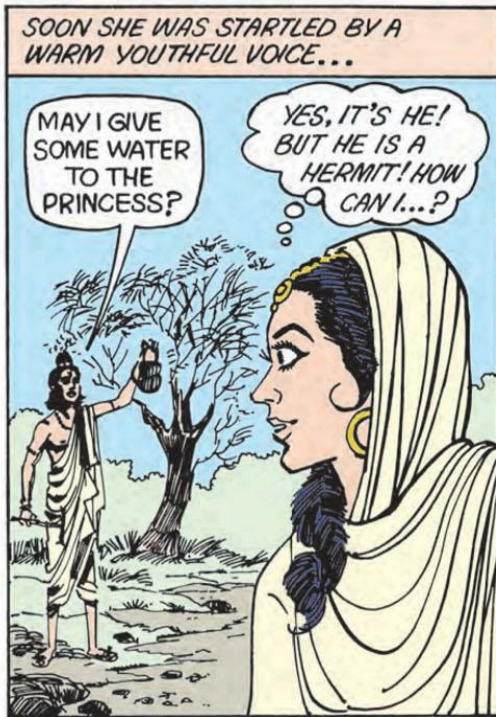
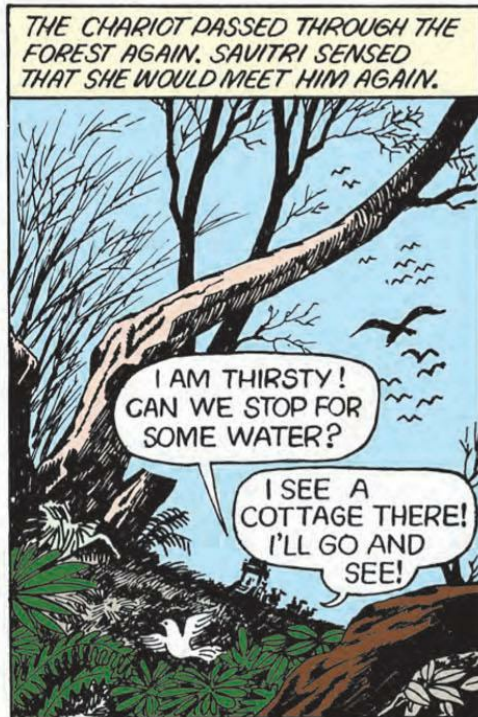
SAVITRI'S EYES FELL ON THE YOUNG MAN'S FACE AND SHE FELT A STRANGE EMOTION.

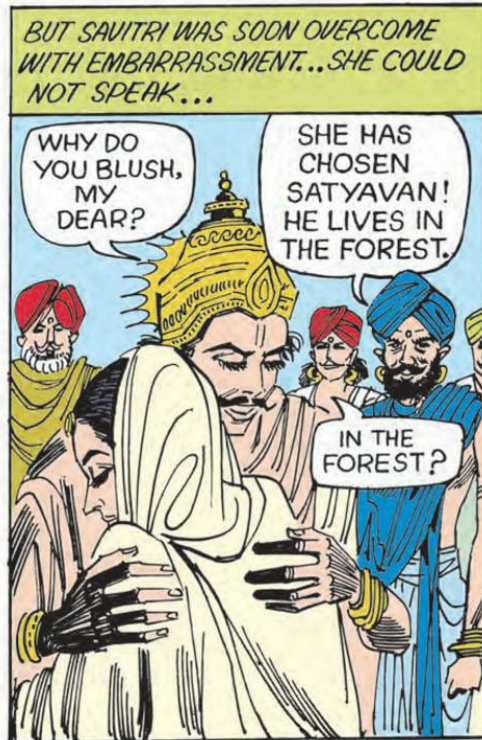
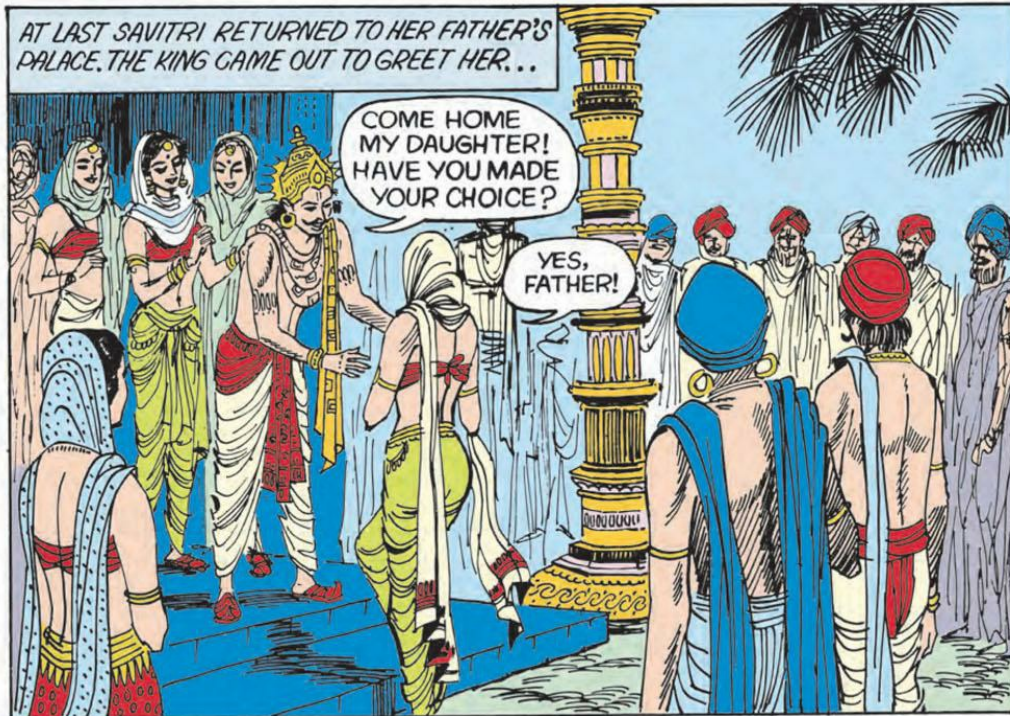


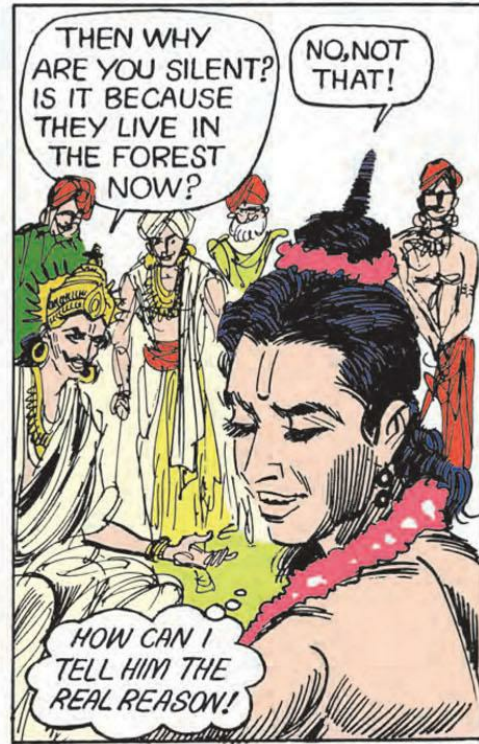
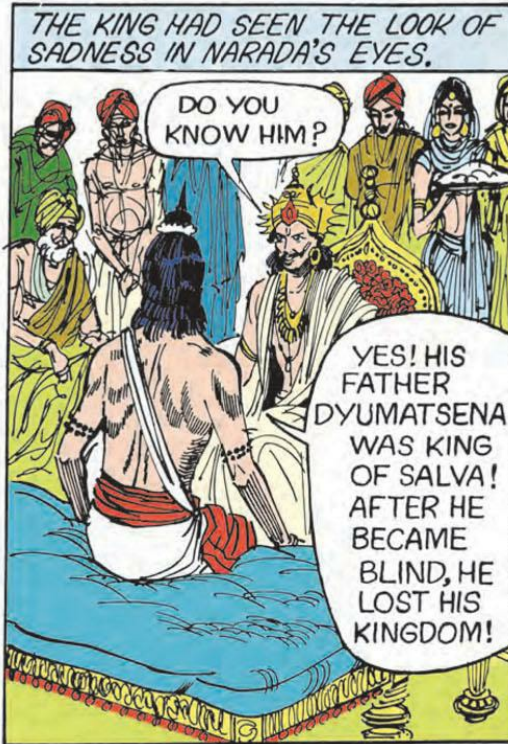
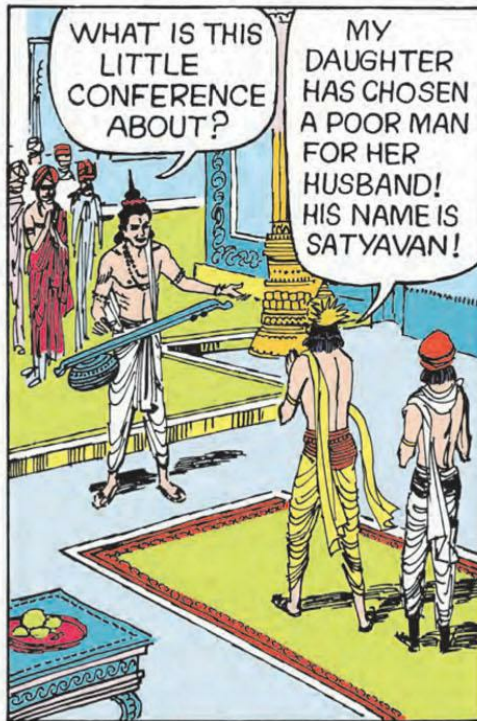
THE FACE WAS IMPRINTED ON HER MEMORY.

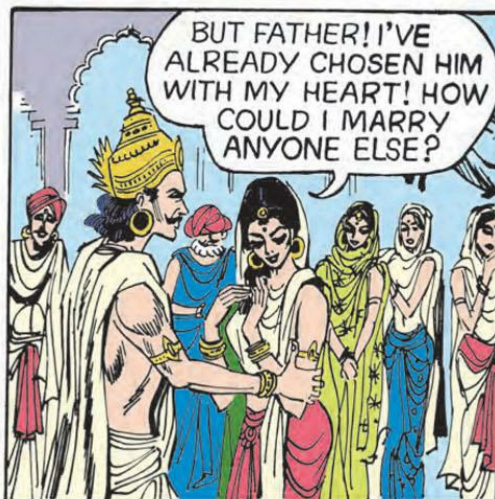
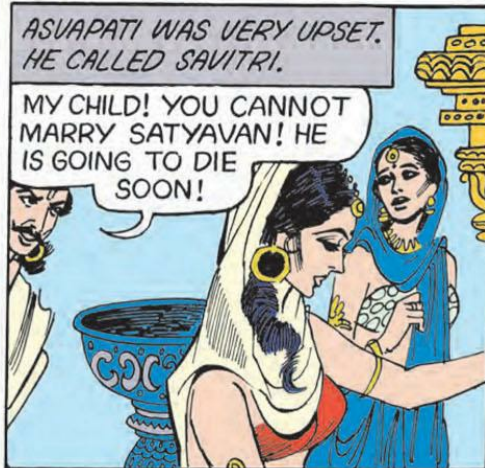
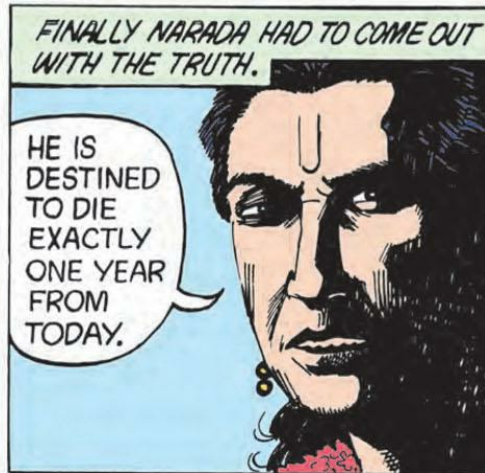
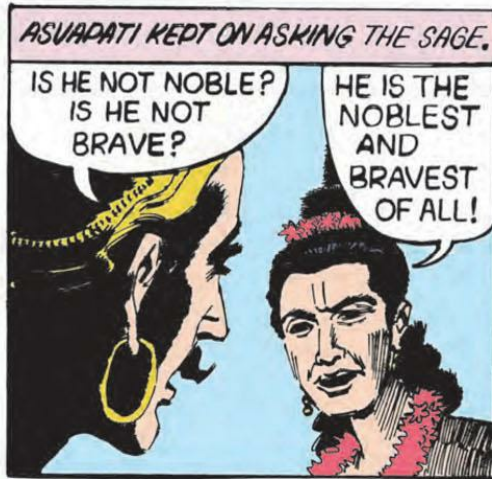




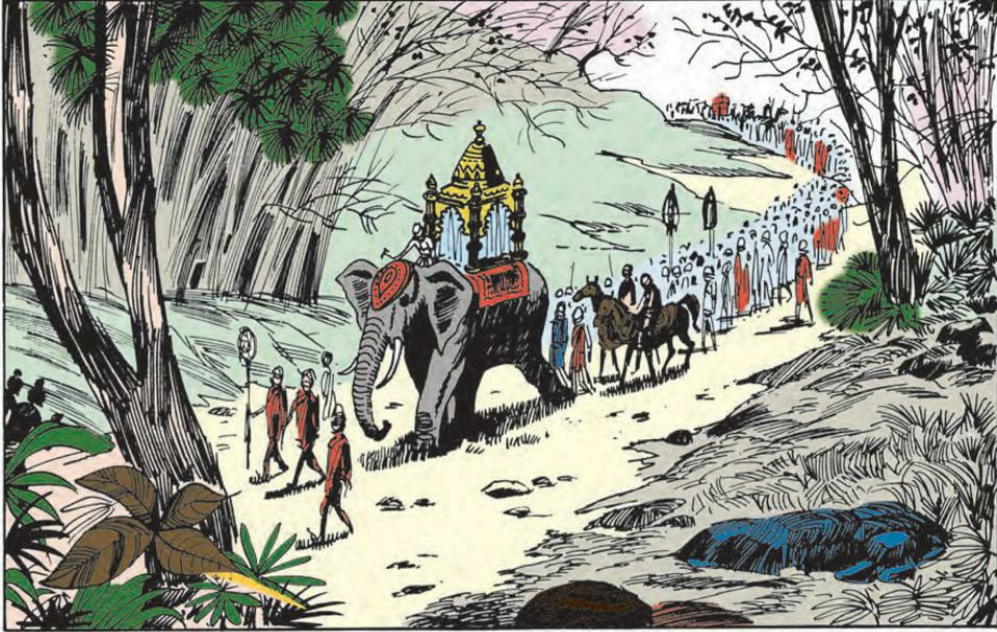








ONE DAY SOON AFTER, A BRIDAL PROCESSION REACHED THE FOREST...
THE HERIMITS CAME FORWARD TO RECEIVE AND WELCOME THEM.



AT FIRST, DYUMATSENA WAS HESITANT.



YOUR CHILD
HAS LIVED IN
WEALTH! HOW
CAN SHE BE
HAPPY HERE?

PLEASE
DO NOT
WORRY! SHE
HAS CHOSEN
SOMETHING
GREATER THAN
WEALTH!

HER FRIENDS DRESSED
SAVITRI BEAUTIFULLY.

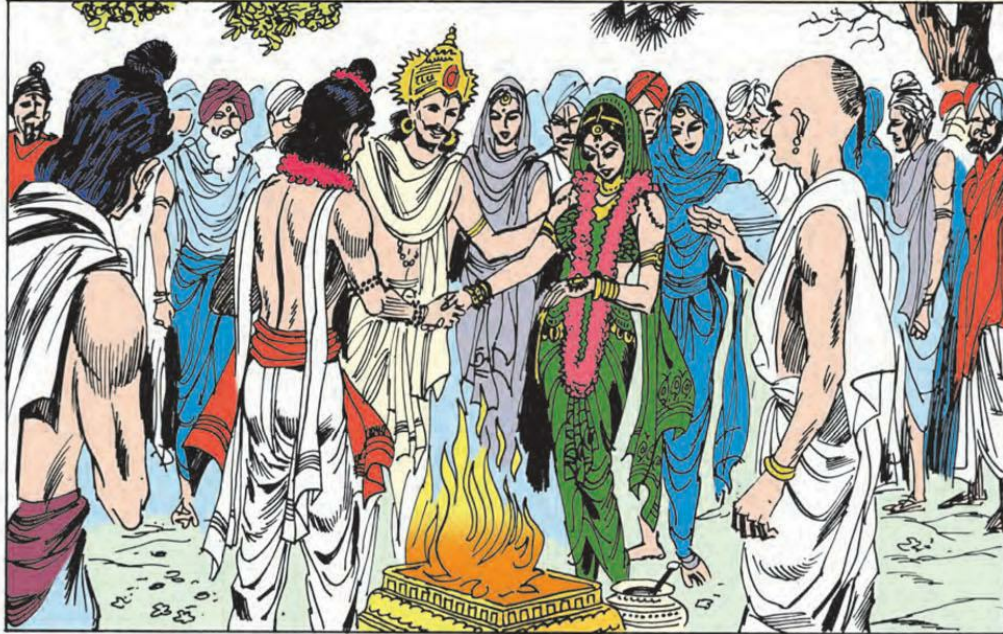


HAVE YOU
SEEN THE
GROOM?
HE IS SO
HANDSOME!

YES!

ONLY FOR
ONE YEAR!

CHANTING THE SACRED MANTRA OF MARRIAGE, ASVAPATI
GAVE AWAY HIS DAUGHTER TO SATYAVAN.

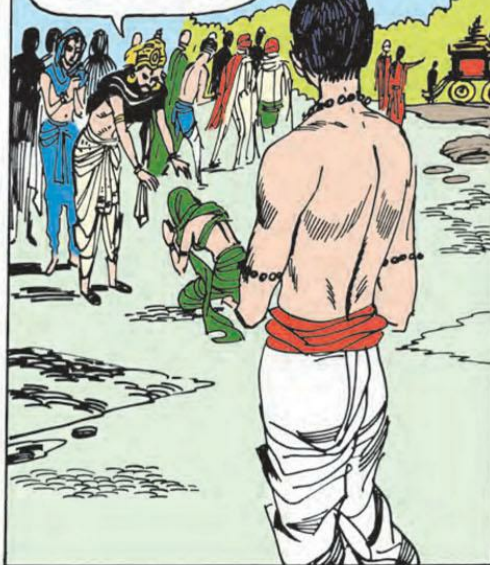


THE BRIDE AND GROOM WALKED
AROUND THE SACRED FIRE SEVEN
TIMES. THEY WERE MARRIED NOW.

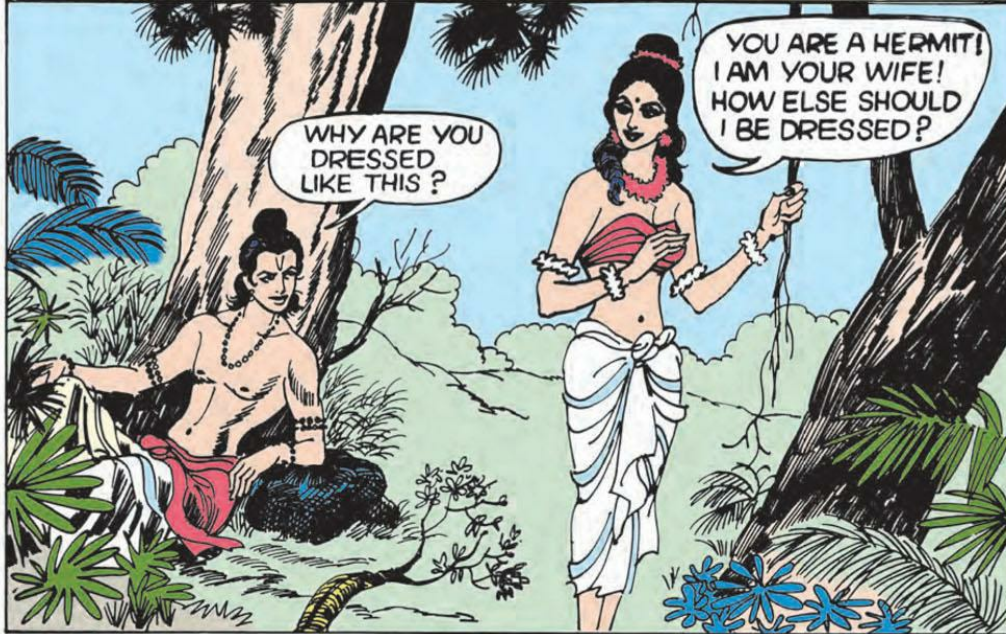


THEN IT WAS TIME FOR FAREWELL.

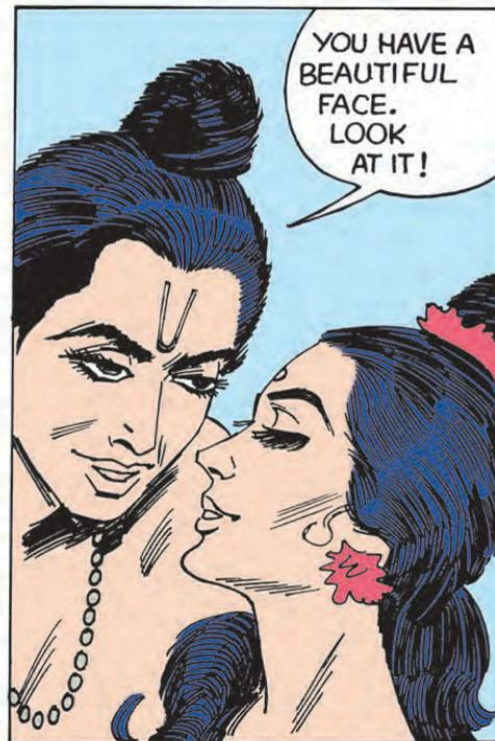
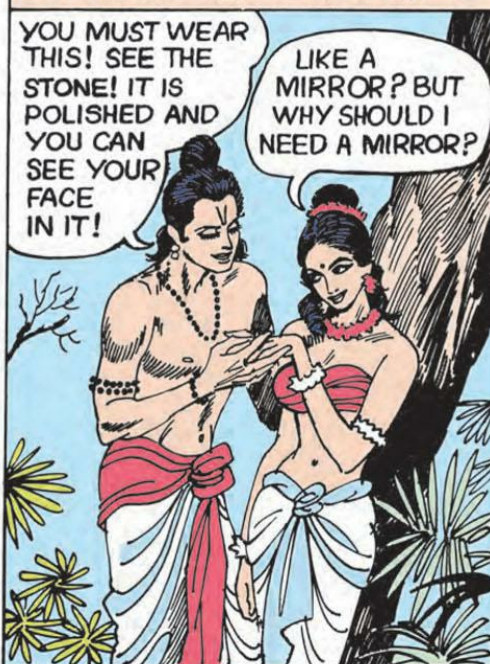
BE PROUD OF
YOUR CHOICE AND
BE HAPPY!



AS SOON AS HER PARENTS LEFT, SAVITRI TOOK OFF ALL HER JEWELS AND CLOTHED HERSELF IN CLOTHES OF BARK.



SATYAVAT TOOK OUT A BEAUTIFUL RING HE HAD KEPT FOR HER.



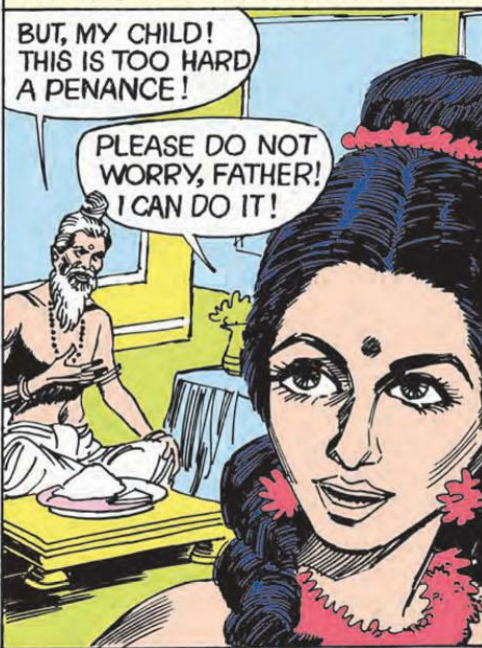
SAVITRI WAS EXTREMELY DEVOTED TO HER PARENTS-IN-LAW! SHE LOOKED AFTER THEM LIKE A DUTIFUL DAUGHTER.



AS THE DAYS PASSED, A SECRET AGONY GREW WITHIN HER HEART.

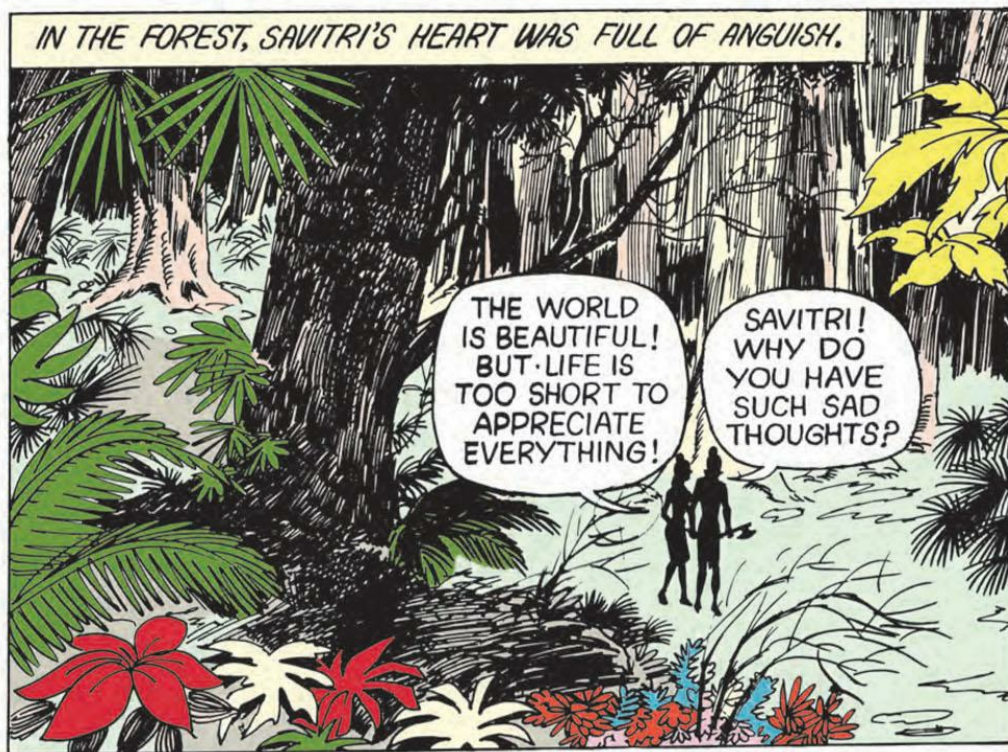
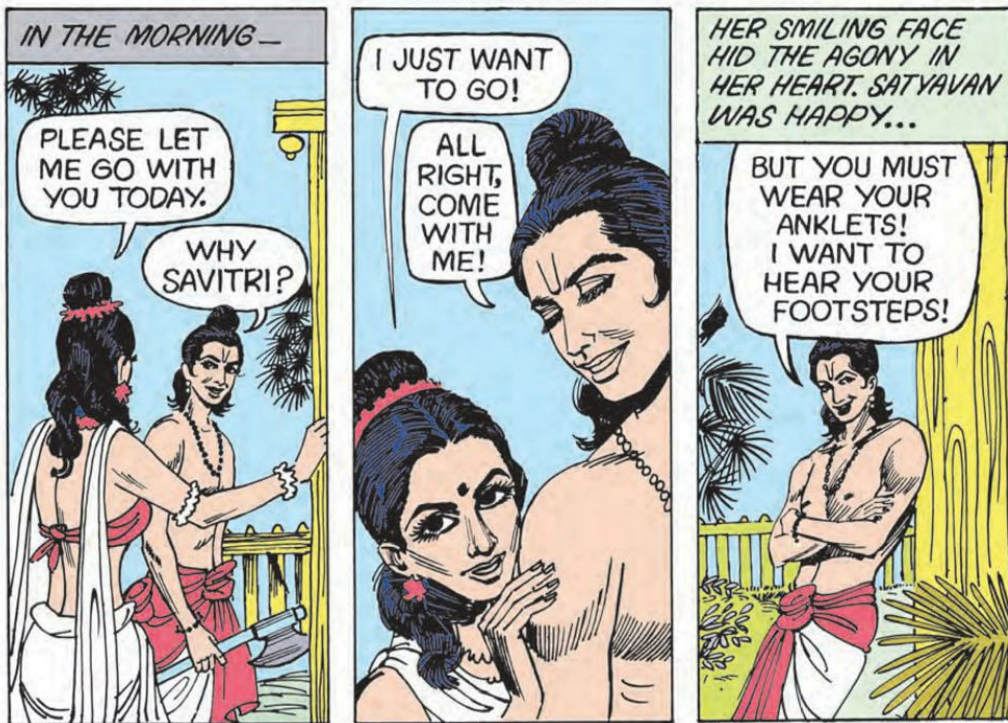


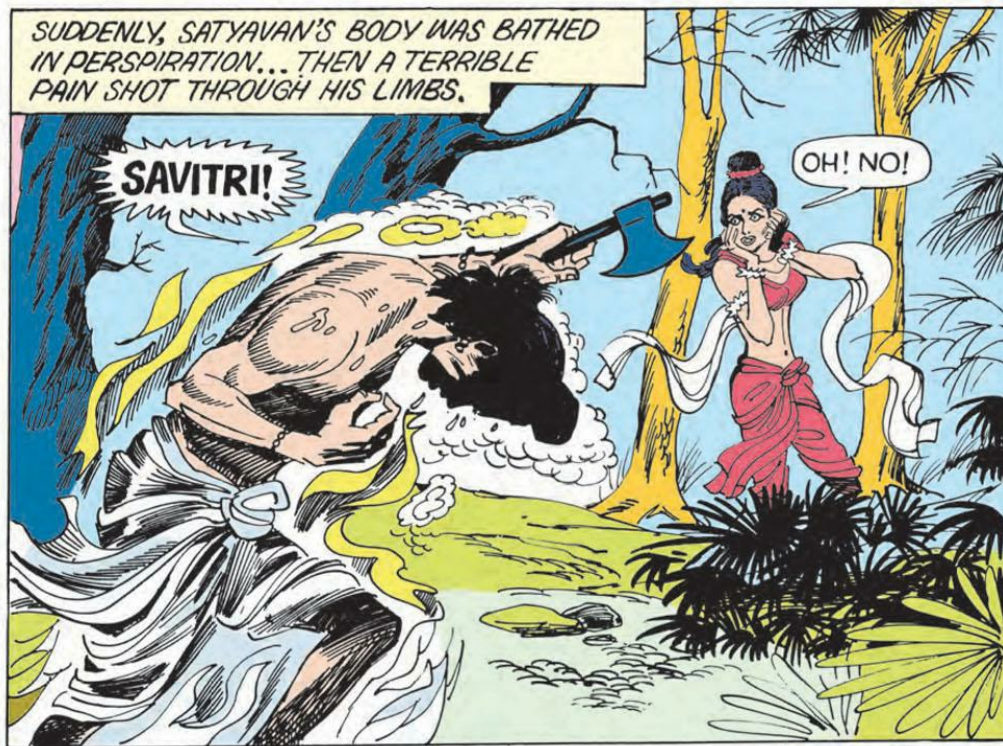
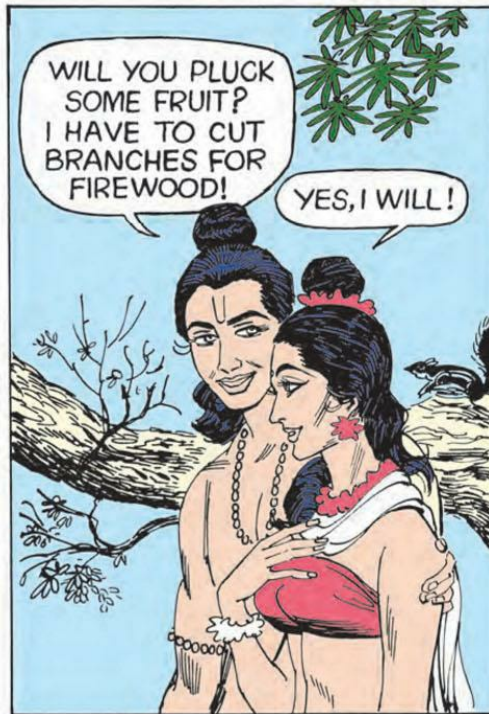
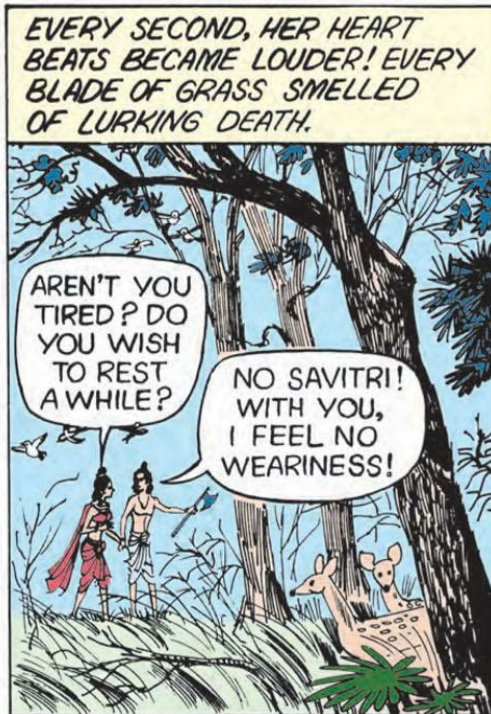
AT LAST, THE YEAR WENT BY. THREE DAYS BEFORE THE FATEFUL DAY, SAVITRI BEGAN FASTING.



ON THE LAST NIGHT SHE COULD NOT SLEEP. ONLY ONE THOUGHT KEPT ON HAUNTING HER.

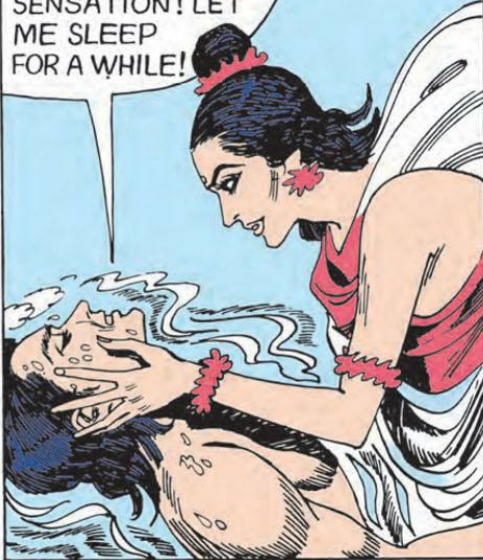






SAVITRI RAN TOWARDS HER HUSBAND...

SAVITRI, MY LIMBS ARE LOSING ALL SENSATION! LET ME SLEEP FOR A WHILE!



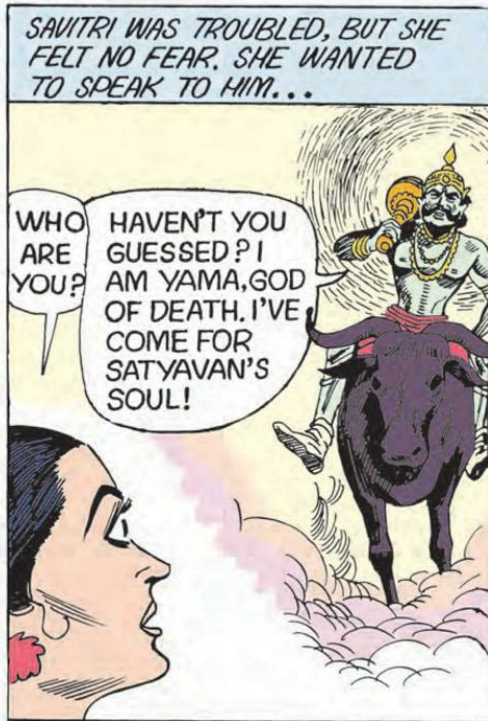
SOON, SATYAVAN'S BODY BECAME STILL.

SO THIS IS THE END?



THE FOREST AROUND HER HAD DARKENED... A HEAVY STILLNESS FILLED THE AIR... SAVITRI LIFTED HER HEAD AND SAW A DARK FIGURE CLAD IN RED, A CROWN SHINING ON HIS HEAD.





SAVITRI FOLLOWED YAMA FROM A DISTANCE! THE TALL SOFT GRASS OF THE FOREST MUFFLED THE SOUND OF HER ANKLETS.



SOON THEY CAME UPON A STREAM. HERE TOO THE WATER SOFTENED THE SOUND OF HER FOOTSTEPS.

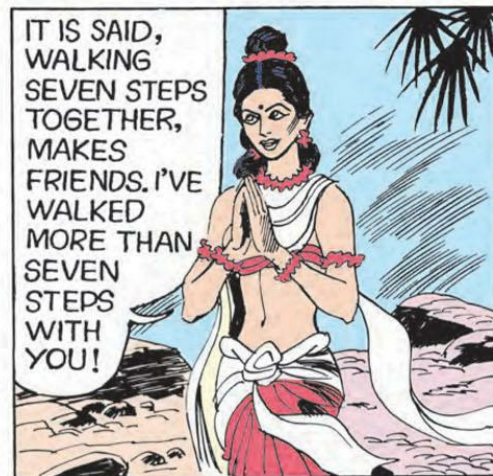
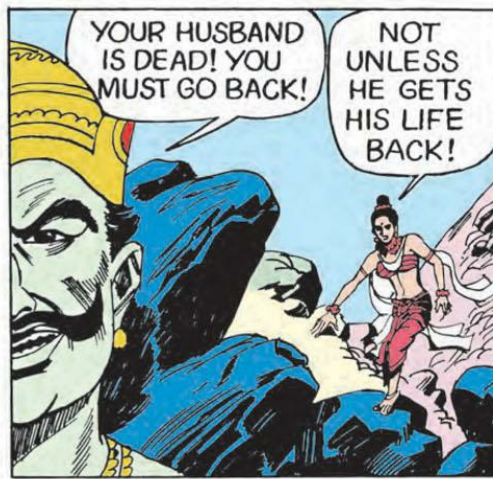


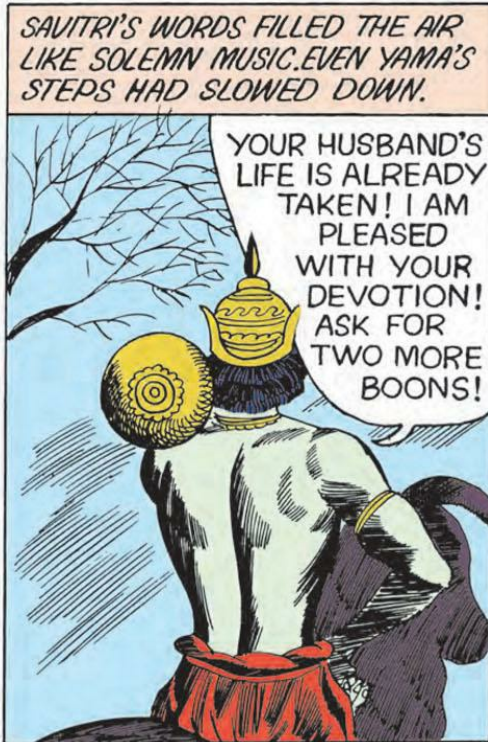
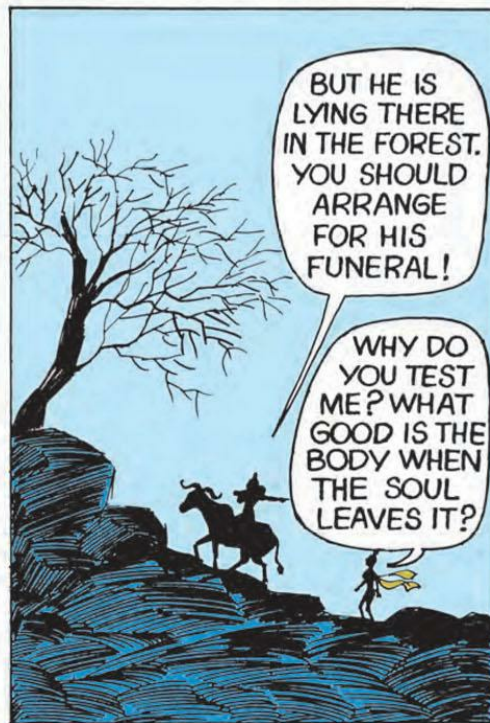
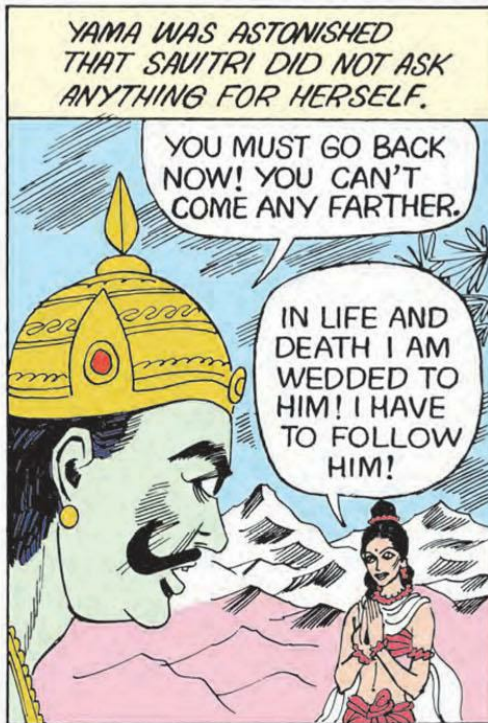
ON THE HARD GROUND, HER ANKLETS FILLED THE AIR WITH A MOURNFUL SOUND...

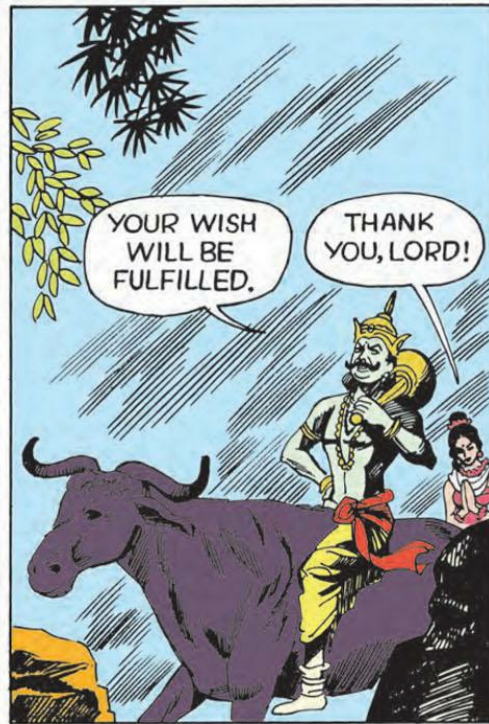


...WHICH SOON REACHED YAMA'S EARS! THE GOD OF DEATH PAUSED TO LISTEN TO THE STRANGE SOUND.









IN GREAT JOY, SAVITRI RAN BACK TO WHERE SATYAVAN LAY IN THE FOREST.



HE WAS LYING THERE AS SHE HAD LEFT HIM, STILL, MOTIONLESS. SAVITRI HAD A DOUBT.



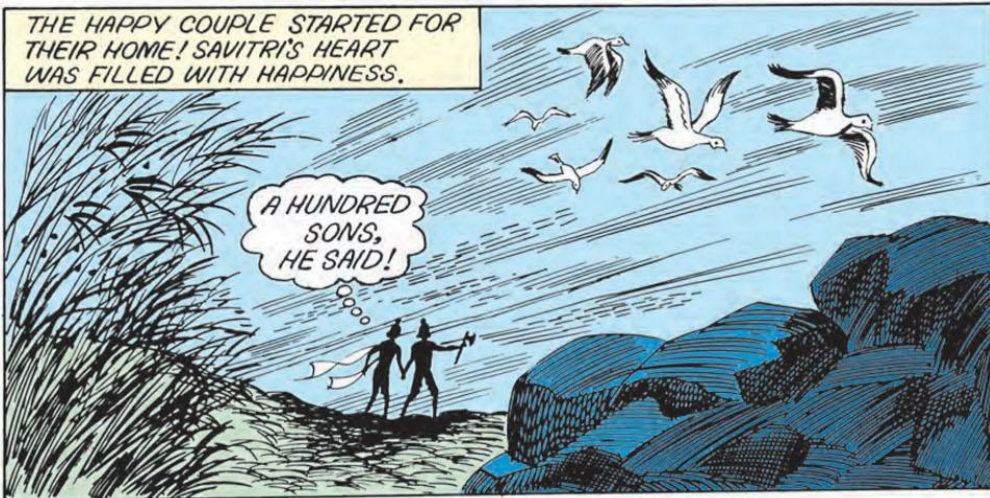
SAVITRI KNEW THAT A POLISHED STONE BECOMES MISTY WITH A MAN'S BREATH. SHE TOOK OFF HER RING AND HELD IT NEAR HIS NOSE.

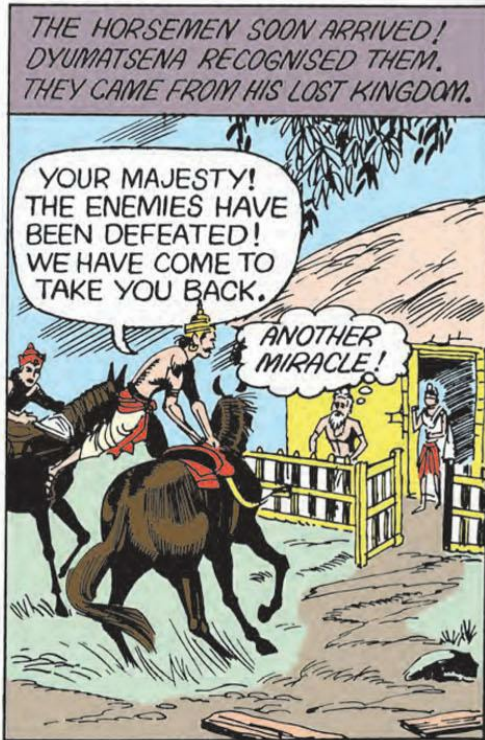
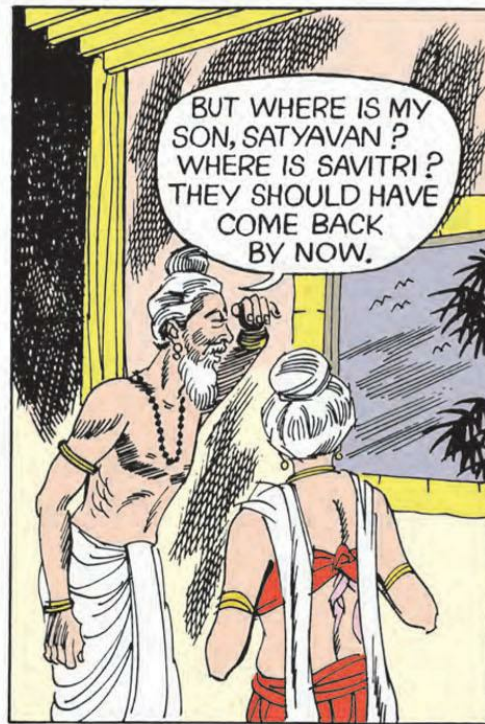
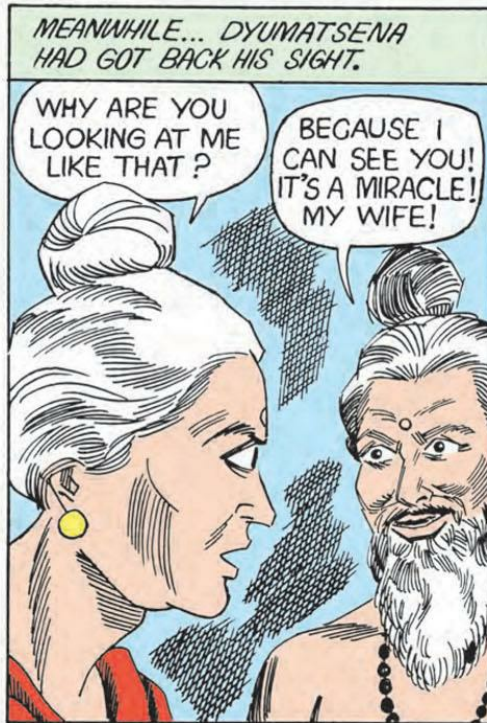


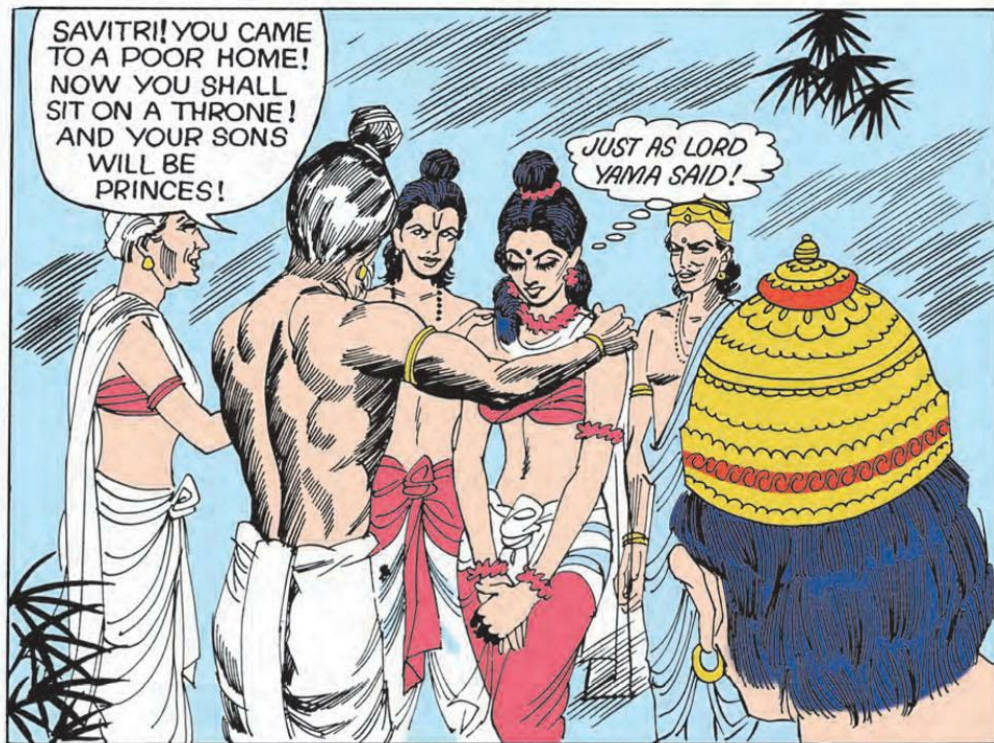
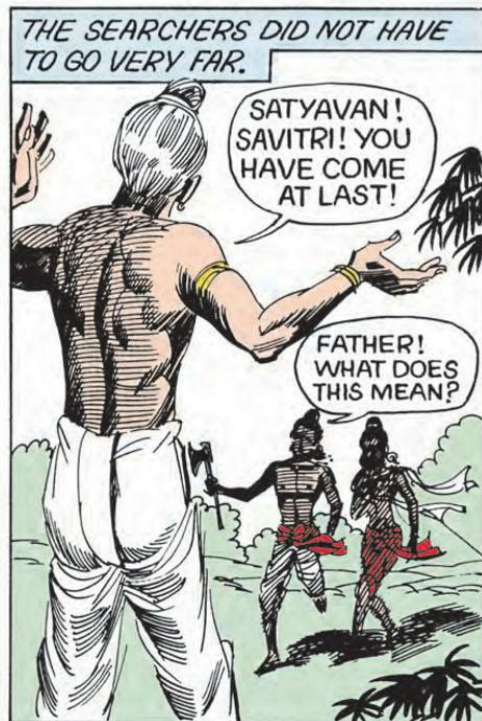
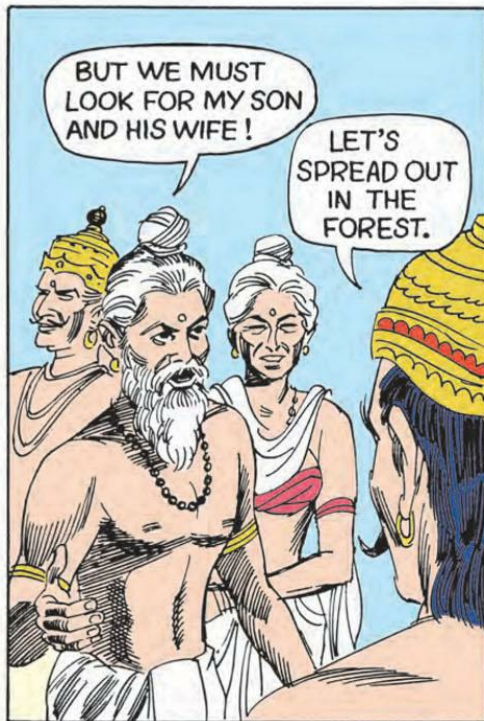
SATYAVAN SOON OPENED HIS EYES.



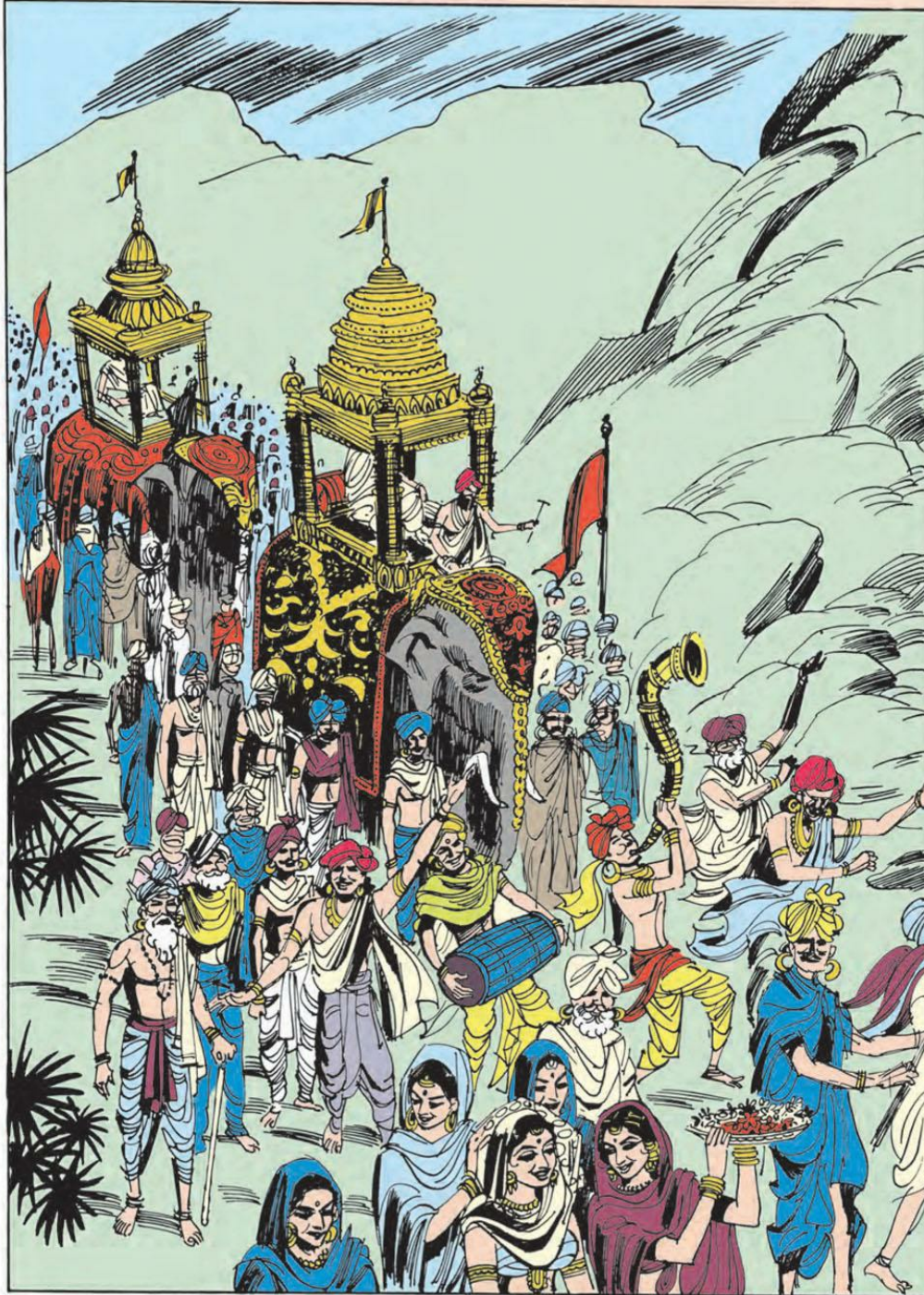
THE HAPPY COUPLE STARTED FOR THEIR HOME! SAVITRI'S HEART WAS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS.







THE EXILES STARTED FOR THEIR KINGDOM.
IT WAS A JOYOUS JOURNEY FOR ALL.



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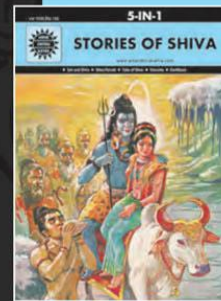
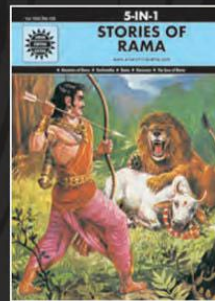
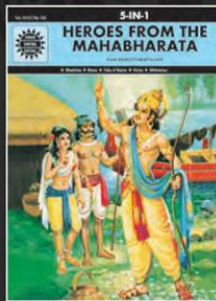
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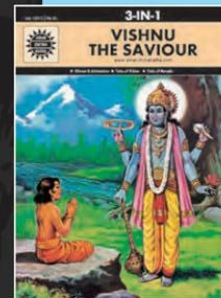
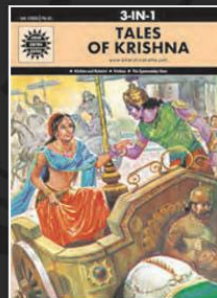
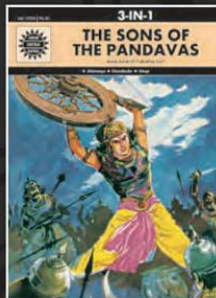
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